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Climate change ambassadors take on plastic bag challenge.

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NATION



President Obama concedes that an immigration overhaul cannot be achieved by August. ► PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE



"Glee" actor Cory Monteith died of an overdose of heroin and alcohol.

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DESPITE CNMI'S REQUEST TO BUILD IT ON TINIAN

US Air Force pushes through with divert airfield on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Air Force is pushing through with plans to establish an alternative airfield on Saipan despite the CNMI's request to build it on Tinian where two-thirds of the islands is already leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Citing communication from the U.S. Department of the Air Force Office of Legislative Liaison, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the Air Force still prefers to build the divert airfield on Saipan and that the "the phases cannot be separated between two different locations" such as Saipan and Tinian.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude

See AIRFIELD on Page 4

Johnson gets 10 years in prison for sex abuse

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Musician Dan Kalikohua Johnson was slapped yesterday with a 10-year prison term for sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 2009.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Johnson to a total of 17 years in prison, all suspended except for 10 years. Johnson, 36, was given credit for time served.

"He victimized...some of the
See JOHNSON on Page 4

Pacific islands share educational challenges, opportunities

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education stakeholders from the Pacific islands gathered yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium for a historic four-day conference where they expect not only to learn from each other but also forge meaningful ex-

changes and partnerships.

For Joe Sanchez, Guam Department of Education deputy superintendent for curriculum, the 28th Pacific Educational Conference 2013 will help Pacific entities collaborate and work together on a common goal to deliver quality learning to students.

Sanchez said that funding is also

among Guam's challenges, like the CNMI Public School System and the rest of the region. Their funding situation, he added, is not unique.

The Guam public school system has about 31,000 students in its 39 campuses. It gets a local annual budget of about \$200 million—an amount that Sanchez

See PACIFIC on Page 4

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Hundreds of participants in the 28th Pacific Educational Conference gather at Marianas High School Gymnasium yesterday for the opening ceremonies. On the conference's first day, participants attended a host of workshops about policy, leadership, parent and community engagement, and instruction, among others.



Up to 15-cent hike in Saipan gas prices. PAGE 2
Customs wants illegal cigarettes incinerated. PAGE 3



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Local

Up to 15-cent hike in Saipan gas prices

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan motorists got another shock at the pump after Mobil Oil Mariana Islands increased its prices by 10 cents and 15 cents a gallon late Tuesday night. Shell Marianas is expected to follow suit as the two oil giants historically mirror each other's price changes.

Regular unleaded gasoline at Mobil service stations is now \$5.059 a gallon, after a 15-cent increase at 10pm Tuesday.

Saipan's regular gas has once again caught up with the CNMI's minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour.

Super unleaded gasoline is now \$5.379, also after a 15-cent hike.

Diesel at Mobil stations, meanwhile, is now \$5.419 a gallon, after a 10-cent increase.

"Fifteen cents per

gallon is a huge increase. It's going to hurt our family budget

again," said a male resident filling up his vehicle at a Mobil station on Middle Road-Garapan yesterday afternoon.

As of 7:30pm last night, Shell's pump prices remained unchanged.

This is at least the sixth gas price change on Saipan so far this year. Three of them were price decreases, and the other three were increases. Except for this week's 15-cent price increase, the previous price changes involved only up to 10 cents a gallon.

In the U.S. mainland, gas prices have also been rising in line with the recent increases in crude oil prices. Based on the Triple A Daily Fuel Gauge Report, the average cost of unleaded gasoline in the lower 48 now stands at \$3.63 cents a gallon, up about 5 cents from last week.

Gas prices in the CNMI are among, if

not the highest, on American soil.

Early this year, gas prices on Saipan hit a record high with regular unleaded gasoline

reaching \$5.20, but Rota and Tinian gas prices were worse, with diesel reaching almost \$7 a gallon. Employees earning

the CNMI's minimum wage of \$5.55 an hour said they have to work at least an hour to pump a gallon of gas into their car.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A price display reflects the latest 10-cent and 15-cent increase in Saipan gas prices, at a Mobil service station on Middle Road, Garapan, early yesterday afternoon.

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Kluge recounts lifelong fascination with Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kenyon College writer-in-residence P.F. Kluge said his first two choices when he volunteered for the U.S. Peace Corps in 1967 was to be assigned to either Ethiopia or Turkey.

So it was to his utter surprise that a "nameless bureaucrat" told him he was going to Saipan, which to him at that time was this little printer's smudge on the map of the Pacific.

Thus began Kluge's "soft-touch" talk in front of members of the Rotary Club of Saipan during their weekly meeting Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The then 25-year-old Kluge would eventually become friends with former Rotary president David M. Sablan, who he met in Truk where both of them trained. Sablan, he said, was brought in as an expert on Saipan.

"So I was sent to Saipan in one of the oddest jobs I could ever have and probably the oddest place I could ever been to. First of all, it struck me as overwhelmingly bizarrely strange that I identify on this island as it looks today as someone who was once a Peace Corps volunteer here. I might as well walk around here and say 'hi I was a Japanese straggler!'" Kluge said.

What was weirder, he narrated, was his job to edit a magazine called the *Micronesian Reporter* and their office was an experimental geodesic dome on Capital Hill.

"We got something going and I had more fun. I mean I worked for the *Wall Street Journal* and *Life Magazine*. I've been published in *Playboy* and *Rolling Stone*. But I never had more fun on a magazine than on that magazine. Because basically I was both the editor and one of the main reporters so I can propose an article to myself, accept it, go out and report it, and then edit

With so much ties to the islands, Kluge said it was tough to say goodbye when it was eventually time to leave.

"When I left this fascinating place, the only way I could bear



Kluge

Roque; as well as the Amatugula and the Yellow Bar in Tanapag.

"So it was a weird and fun place with layers of history that were fascinating...the Spanish, the Germans, the Japanese...and things were starting to bubble."

By starting to bubble he meant the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was about to be disbanded. In fact, he said, he was in the room in Palau in 1972 when the Marianas got permission to negotiate separately with the United States.

With so much ties to the islands, Kluge said it was tough to say goodbye when it was eventually time to leave.

"When I left this fascinating

place, the only way I could bear

to leave was to say I was going to come back. I was in 1970,

and again in 1972. And I was back for the Micro ConCon in 1975."

After 1975, whenever he had journalism assignments in the same zip code, he would always reroute himself to Saipan.

"I wrote articles about this place for various magazines. In this millennium I've been back here four times. I keep coming back. The place fascinates me, through all its ups and downs. It mutates in ways that I can't begin to predict. I'm always surprised, heartbroken, and back in love when I'm in this place. That's why I'm here now."

His experience on Saipan has not only become fond memories but has turned into a rich material for his novels.

"When I sat down to write my first book—there's been 11—I remember two things from Saipan. I remember a guy named Steve Aiken and clearing Marpi when it was still a forbidden zone. They'd be clearing out all the scattered ammunition over the north end of the island. I remember also being asked to take Lee Marvin on a tour of

this island when he arrived to scout for locations for a movie that was subsequently filmed in Palau. And that became the genesis of my first book and Saipan is also the basis for my 11th book. So I keep coming back and I guarantee you today that this is not my last trip," he said.

Kluge said he has a much longer and more controversial spiel in store during the NMI Humanities Council's "Saipan Then, Saipan Now, Saipan Tomorrow," set for July 26, 6pm to 8pm at the Fiesta resort & Spa Saipan.

Aside from the July 26 event, he is also on Saipan to conduct a series of workshops for the island's aspiring writers.

"There is a saying that if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans, which I think applies to Obama, to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to me—things turn out unexpectedly."

Man gets 6 mos. for threatening ex-wife with air rifle

Jan. 5, 2013, shouting profanities at her.

Police said they arrested Cabrera after he blocked the road leading to the victim's house in San Antonio.

When a police officer responded to the scene, the victim appeared very scared and her hands were shaking.

The victim told police that she also heard gunshots around her house. (Ferdie de la Torre)



JG Sablan's other suit against DPL dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman dismissed yesterday JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc.'s lawsuit against the Department of Public Lands over their dispute that began in 2006 when DPL terminated the company's permit to mine pozzolan on Pagan.

Wiseman said that, as he had ruled in his recent decision in the CNMI government's 2006 lawsuit against JG Sablan, DPL terminated the company's permit.

The termination was upheld by the Superior and Supreme courts, said Wiseman in granted DPL's motion to dismiss JG Sablan's petition for judicial review.

He said the Superior Court is bound by the CNMI Supreme Court's decision and cannot overturn it.

Wiseman said the Superior Court is bound by the CNMI Supreme Court's decision to terminate the permit and cannot override that decision by now finding that the permit is valid.

"Because this court is bound by the Supreme Court's decision, it again finds the permit terminated and no longer valid," the judge said.

Last year, JG Sablan filed the petition for judicial review, arguing that DPL's refusal to reconsider the permit's ter-

mination was "arbitrary and capricious" because the Commonwealth courts ultimately only upheld two of the independently sufficient reasons for terminating the permit.

JG Sablan, through counsel Michael Dotts, asked the court to issue an order holding unlawful and setting aside DPL's agency action for refusing to reconsider the termination of the permit.

DPL, through assistant attorney general Michael Wilt, moved to dismiss the petition. DPL claims that JG Sablan is not entitled to judicial review of DPL's refusal to reconsider because the principles of *res judicata* prevent the company from relitigating the termination of its permit, as the CNMI Supreme Court already upheld the termination decision.

Res judicata doctrine, also known as claim preclusion, bars litigation in a subsequent action of any claims that were raised or could have been raised in the prior action.

JG Sablan argues that *res judicata* does not bar the company because the CNMI Supreme Court decision only affirmed two of the seven grounds relied on by DPL in terminating the permit.

Wiseman heard the motion to dismiss last Feb. 7.

In his decision yesterday, Wiseman ruled that dismissal is appropriate on the grounds of *res judicata*.

Bill requiring mandatory drug test for law enforcers prefiled

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations Committee chair Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) and five other House members prefiled on Tuesday a bill requiring mandatory drug testing for all law enforcement personnel each year.

Leon Guerrero prefiled House Bill 18-101 on the heels of several incidents involving police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, customs officers and other law enforcement personnel and regulatory agency employees who have either been convicted or charged with illegal drug use or drug trafficking.

HB 18-101 amends Title 10 Chapter 10-20, Subchapter 10-20.2, Part 400, Subpart C, Section 10-20.2-424(d) of the Commonwealth Code, by requiring "100 percent of law enforcement officers, as defined in 1 CMC 8282" to "submit to urine testing" each year.

A former police officer, Leon Guerrero said several of those convicted law enforcement officers were directly assigned to

AFTER ARREST OF 2 WIA INTERNS AT CUSTOMS

Customs wants incineration of seized illegal cigarettes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Division of Customs Services Director Joe Mafnas disclosed yesterday plans to incinerate thousands of cartons of illegal and undeclared cigarettes seized in early 2012, some 50 of which were allegedly stolen recently by two Workforce Investment Agency interns assigned to Customs.

The 50 cartons of cigarettes the two WIA interns allegedly stole were among the estimated 4,000 cartons of cigarettes that Customs intercepted early last year. That was reportedly the largest haul of smuggled

cigarettes in CNMI history.

"Customs will be asking the prosecutor's office to allow the incineration of these cigarettes from last year. They are taking up space, and recently, were subject of stealing. They are taking up a lot of space at the customs warehouse and inviting some termites," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Since the recent discovery of the theft of the seized cigarettes, Customs brought the confiscated cigarettes to a chain link fence area to secure them better.

However, Mafnas said, should there be additional

confiscations, the Customs warehouse or garage will be overwhelmed with confiscated cigarettes and other undeclared goods.

"If I could have my way, this stuff would have been destroyed already. Customs will inquire again with the prosecutor's office whether we could do that," Mafnas added.

In June this year, the court granted the Office of the Attorney General's motion to dismiss without prejudice the case against the man who allegedly tried to smuggle the 4,000 cartons of undeclared cigarettes into the Commonwealth.

Dismissal without prejudice

means the OAG is allowed to re-file the case in the future.

A few months ago, additional cartons of undeclared and illegal cigarettes were seized, adding to the volume of stored items at the Customs warehouse and garage.

On Friday, authorities arrested two WIA interns assigned to Customs for allegedly stealing 50 cartons of cigarettes worth \$2,400 from the Customs Seaport sections in Lower Base, Saipan.

Ignacio Mafnas Cruz, an 18-year-old WIA intern, was arrested on Friday for theft and conspiracy. Another WIA intern involved is 17 years old.

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IN ONGOING JURY TRIAL OF KILELEMAN, FITIAL

Prosecution rests; defense moves for acquittal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The prosecution rested its case yesterday afternoon after calling in 13 witnesses in the ongoing jury trial of Felix Kileleman Jr. and Herman S. Fitial over the death of 19-year-old Jefferson Kialau Keju.

The prosecution rested its case after the testimony of police officer Peter Aldan.

Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg, counsel for Kileleman, and attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Fitial, immediately asked for a judgment of acquittal.

Petersburg and Thompson argued, among other things, that the prosecution failed to present enough evidence to prove the charges.

Assistant attorneys general

James McAllister and Brian Flaherty asserted, however, that the evidence they presented are enough to convict Kileleman and Fitial of all charges.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho placed the motion under advisement and will announce his ruling today, Thursday.

The jurors will decide on the charges of involuntary manslaughter, while Camacho will decide the charges of assault and battery.

Police officer Aldan testified that he interviewed Kileleman at the Department of Corrections on Jan. 3, 2013, during which Kileleman basically admitted beating up Keju on the evening of Jan. 1, 2013.

Aldan said that Kileleman told him that when Keju fell on Middle Road and tried to get

up, he kicked and punched him more than 10 times.

According to Kileleman, as he was punching the "Chuukese boy," he saw lights from an incoming car and that both of them were hit by the vehicle.

Kileleman reportedly stated that he got up and heard Keju moaning and that he felt sorry for the boy.

Aldan said that Kileleman himself sustained scratches, abrasions, and bruises on the chest, head, legs, and other parts of the body.

The police officer said that Kileleman stated that it all started at the New Chang Ming Market where he and his uncle, Fitial, went to buy cigarettes that night.

Keju was there and was allegedly insisting on buying beer but the store employee refused be-

cause he appeared to be a minor.

Kileleman allegedly wanted to shake hands with Keju, but the latter told him not to touch him.

An argument ensued and Keju allegedly picked up two rocks and threatened to kill Kileleman.

Aldan said that Keju and the two defendants met again later at the Mobil gas station on Middle Road. From Mobil, Kileleman and Fitial chased Keju toward the highway, Aldan said.

Acting Commonwealth Investigation Bureau commander Jeffrey Olopai also testified yesterday that Fitial admitted punching Keju in the face outside the New Chang Ming Market.

Olopai said that Fitial told him that he punched Keju because the latter tried to hit him with a rock on the evening of Jan. 1, 2013.

Olopai said that after he received a call from police detective Melissa Bauleong on Jan. 2, 2013, that Keju was assaulted

before he was ran over by two cars, he instructed detectives to canvass the Garapan area for evidence.

That night, Olopai said he received a call from another detective that there was a video footage of Keju that night at Chang Ming Market.

Olopai said he reviewed the footage and identified Fitial. Olopai said he recorded a portion of the video in the monitor on his cell phone and took two detectives with him to Kileleman's house in Chinatown.

When they arrived at the house, they were informed that Fitial was not there so they proceeded to a house in Quartermaster Road where they found Fitial.

Olopai said he explained to Fitial his purpose and showed him the recording on his phone and asked him if he could iden-

tify the person in the video. Olopai said that Fitial identified the person as himself.

Olopai said he explained to Fitial that he is a suspect in Keju's case.

He said Fitial admitted that he was at New Chang Ming Market that night to buy cigarettes where he met Keju.

For some reasons, Fitial and Keju had argument. Olopai said Fitial stated that Keju tried to hit him with a rock so he punched him in the face.

Olopai said Fitial also stated that he saw Keju and Kileleman being run over by a car.

Asked by McAllister if the video at New Chang Ming Market showed the punching, Olopai said there was none, but the gestures showed they were about to get into a fight.

"I did not see any rocks in the video," Olopai added.

AIRFIELD

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JOHNSON

From Page 1

most protected members in any civilized society—the young, the innocent, and the defenseless children," Wiseman said. "We must send a strong message to potential offenders and those adults who terrorize, perpetrate and violate the innocence of a minor all for their own self-gratification that they will go to jail for many years."

Although Johnson has no criminal history, he has not expressed any remorse or acceptance of responsibility for his actions, Wiseman said.

He believes this is a case where the best interests of justice and of society will be best served by imposing a prison term that will have a deterrent effect on Johnson upon his re-

lease and on potential offenders.

Wiseman said the victim in this case was a 13-year-old girl at the beginning of Johnson's illicit activities. The victim is now 16 years old. Johnson was 32 when the first incident happened.

Johnson will be required to register as a sex offender. He was also ordered to pay a \$200 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

Before Wiseman announced his sentence, Johnson told the court that he was grateful to his family for coming to court to show their support for him.

The Office of the Attorney General recommended a sentence of 17 years, while assistant public defender Matthew Meyers, counsel for Johnson, recommended four years. The Office of Adult Probation recommended 10 years.

is convinced this is key to improving the quality of education on the island.

"One biggest challenge...is in the area of curriculum. We're just adopting the common core standards and we really haven't gone through a process with our own standards," he said.

He also emphasized the need to find ways to support students who use English as a second language.

"We try to find ways how we can support them. Although they are not proficient in English, this doesn't mean that we have to lower their curriculum and expectations," he said.

Over the four days that he will be at the conference, Sanchez expects to learn new things that could help Guam's education system. He cited some initiatives such as the classroom instruction network and professional learning communities that he wants adapted to the Guam educational system.

Lovey Alfonso, a special education teacher in the Palau Ministry of Education, also expects to gain knowledge that she can later share and adapt in her home school.

There are approximately over a thousand public school stu-

A jury found Johnson guilty of attempted sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Wiseman, who ruled on the misdemeanor charges, found Johnson guilty of one count of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace.

The sexual abuse happened on May 17, 2009, while the attempted sexual abuse occurred on June 23, 2012.

Police said their investigation began on June 24, 2012, when they received a call about a girl who had run away from home. When a detective met with the girl, she confessed that Johnson sexually abused her on May 17, 2009.

In an interview after the sentencing, assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll said that defendants like Johnson

misuse their authority over victims who are very young and defenseless.

"And I think that the court did send a strong message about this kind of sexual abuse that happens within homes. So we're pleased with the message that Judge Wiseman send," Driscoll said.

Under the statute at the time Johnson was found guilty, he would be eligible for parole after serving a third of his sentence.

Driscoll said that Wiseman was silent on Johnson's parole eligibility but the OAG will oppose a release that early.

"Under the laws in the Commonwealth sex offenders will not be eligible for parole until after two-thirds of their sentence has been served," she said.

Meyers, counsel for Johnson, refused to comment.

to join the teaching staff.

If there's one thing she is proud of, it is the creation of a Palau achievement test and quarterly assessment for students, in addition to the national standardized SAT-10.

Although not familiar with all the programs offered by CNMI-PSS for its students, Alfonso is convinced that the conference will bring up many ideas that they can use for their own system.

Dr. Melly Wilson, director of research policy and government relations for the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, is excited to be on island and hopes that participants will be engaged and passionate in hearing the presentations where they can learn from each other.

Wilson is part of a 17-member delegation from Hawaii. Like other participants, she agreed that though attendees may come from various educational systems in the Pacific region, there are a host of common areas and issues that they share in their educational systems.

Yesterday's conference saw the participation of about 800 educators, leaders, and experts, mostly from the Pacific region.

U. Hofsneider, meanwhile, will receive a briefing from U.S. Pacific Air Forces or PACAF representatives on the divert airfield next week, press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

PACAF oversees all U.S. Air Force commands in the Pacific region.

Saipan is the "preferred Alternative 1" for a divert or contingency airfield for the U.S. Air Force in support of expanding its mission requirements in the western Pacific in the event that access to Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is limited or denied.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz separately said he is "very disappointed" with the Air Force's decision to build the divert airfield on Saipan.

"This facility would have been a great boon to the economic development of Tinian, an economy that has suffered ever since the Air Force decided not to build the base they said they so desperately needed in 1974. Now they want to ignore the land leased for them on Tinian and build it on Saipan," Dela Cruz said in a July 15 letter to Sablan, a copy of which was released yesterday.

Sablan, in a July 11 letter, cited the Department of the Air Force Office of Legislative Liaison when he said "the Air Force still prefers to construct the divert facility [on] Saipan, as announced in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement released in June 2012."

"The Air Force also states that although there are two phases for the exercise/divert facility, the phases cannot be separated between two different locations," Sablan told Dela Cruz.

Phase 1 represents the minimum funding needed to develop an airport in the CNMI as an exercise/divert location.

Phase 2 is for the improvements to that airport, if additional funding becomes available.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) said yesterday "it will be nice" to have the divert airfield on Tinian to help the island's economy "and perhaps we can share the cost of our infrastructures

that still need to be in place at our port."

"But it's beyond our control where they want to put the divert airfield," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) also said yesterday that the U.S. Air Force prefers Saipan "because of comfort and amenities which Tinian does not have."

"Typical Air Force luxury," he added.

US Congress funding

Sablan also pointed out that the U.S. House Armed Services Committee did not zero out funds for the divert facility in the CNMI.

H.R. 1960 or the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014, passed by the House in June 14, authorized funding for all three Air Force construction projects on Saipan as requested in President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2014 budget.

"The NDAA did, however, require that the Air Force require the necessary land where these projects will be constructed prior to the release of any funds," Sablan told the Tinian mayor.

Why Saipan?

A 110-page "Draft Environmental Impact Assessment for Proposed Divert Activities and Exercises, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" listed Saipan as "preferred Alternative 1" and Tinian as "preferred Alternative 2" in June 2012.

The Air Force considered four locations: Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

An evaluation of the four possible site alternatives identified Saipan and Tinian as meeting or having the ability to meet most of the five selection standards.

Rota and Guam were dropped because they do not meet the selection standard for "storm radius."

Saipan has access to fuel vessels, unlike Tinian.

Both Saipan and Tinian have limited capability to meet the selection standard of "adequate land and existing infrastructure with expansion potential to satisfy proposed action requirements."

PACIFIC

From Page 1

said is \$80 million less than what the department needs.

"We try to focus on what's the most essential. We're maximizing our resources and channeling our resources...that's what we do," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Another equally pressing area that needs much attention in their school system is curriculum and assessment, Sanchez said.

"We need to clarify the content of our curriculum at all levels for all subject areas. We also need to have a consistent framework for all our teachers to be trained on the basics and lastly, it is important to clarify our summative assessment because we need a criterion assessment for our students," he said.

Until all these clarifications are made, he said, it's very difficult to use the student achievement data they have.

Sanchez pointed out the need for an SBA (standard based assessment-type) in Guam to better gauge the effectiveness of the system's instructions.

The Guam school system, he said, is just starting to adopt the common core standards, and he

CUC bares \$6.24 million net loss in fiscal year 2012

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

All three systems—power, water, and sewer—of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. individually suffered significant losses reaching \$6.24 million last fiscal year, according to CUC consultant economists.com.

In a document submitted to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, economists.com described CUC's current financial position as "tenuous."

Saipan Tribune learned that power's net loss last fiscal year totaled \$2.237 million while the water division recorded a net loss of \$2.097 million. The wastewater department's net loss totaled \$1.9 million dur-

ing the same period.

According to economists.com, a net loss of this magnitude for any business is "nothing short of catastrophic."

CUC has petitioned the commission to be allowed to raise its electric base rate and water and wastewater charges effective Oct. 1.

Although it has noted some financial improvements recently, the agency has yet to realize a full-cost recovery of its operation. The agency wants to increase its rates based on four reasons: to meet the requirements of the federal stipulated orders, due to the declining customer and volume base, due to operating and capital cost increases, and for typhoon preparedness

For the power division, data show that its LEAC (levelized energy adjustment clause) revenue totaled \$66.58 million last fiscal year while its total fuel costs was \$66.24 million—a difference of \$34,449. This means the entire loss of the electric division can be characterized as non-fuel operating losses.

The combined total paid by CUC's ratepayers for electric, water, and wastewater in fiscal year 2012 is \$6.240 million lower than expenses.

The only reason CUC's losses were not even worse than previous years is because the management did not fund a significant amount of expenses it had identified as necessary in its interim financial plan, said economist.com.

Customer base, usage dip

According to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, the total kilowatt-hour sales in fiscal year 2012 fell by 12 percent from fiscal year 2011's while the number of electric custom-

ers declined by over 2 percent.

Among water customers, the decline was 3 percent, with a corresponding decrease in water sales of 11 percent—from 1.5 billion gallons in fiscal year 2011 to 1.3 billion gallons in fiscal year 2012.

Wastewater volume, however, increased 13 percent—to 825 million gallons—even while the total number of customers fell by 5 percent.

CUC assets

Unaudited CUC data shows

that this fiscal year 2013, the agency's total net asset balance is \$135.144 million, with an equity balance of \$94.1 million.

As of March 2013, CUC's current ratio is 1.56, which is acceptable but not robust. The current ratio is calculated by dividing current assets by current liabilities and many utilities strive for a current ratio greater than 2.0, which gives the company considerable financial ability to pay for its liabilities.



WHEN IT RAINS...

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Amid overcast skies, motorists drive past a flooded side street in Garapan after heavy rains yesterday. Garapan has always been one of the most flood-prone areas on Saipan every time it rains but there is no relief in sight to prevent and control the flooding.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of June 20, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings

1. None

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business

1. Update on the Zoning Law of 2013

E. New Business

1. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on July 22, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before July 22.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than July 22. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.



To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau – up to 6:00pm
Timian/Rota Office – up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

28th Pacific Educational Conference 2013

PHOTOS BY
MONETH G. DEPOSA



An educator from Palau Ministry of Education checks a book in the exhibit hall where various instructional materials and children's books are showcased for conference attendees.



Dr. Tim Waters, president and CEO of McREL, gestures as he delivers his keynote address during the opening ceremonies of the four-day conference held at Marianas High School.



Delegates from Pacific islands listen to a presenter during yesterday's ceremonies at the 28th Pacific Educational Conference.



CNMI Public School System Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, center, are joined by key education leaders in the Pacific and guest speakers during yesterday's ceremonies.



BOE vice chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita, third from left, reads the board's resolution recognizing the 29 years of assistance and significant contribution of PREL to PSS. Others in photo are board members, from right, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Marylou Ada, Janice Tenorio, Herman Guerrero, Blanco-Maratita, PREL president and CEO Sharon Nelson-Barber, and COE Dr. Rita A. Sablan.



A presenter is seen welcoming participants during one of the breakout sessions yesterday at Marianas High School.



McREL president and CEO Dr. Tim Waters, left, receives a plaque of appreciation from CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero while other board members look on during yesterday's opening and awarding rites at Marianas High School.



The Marianas High School's Chamorro Club perform a special number during yesterday's opening rites on campus.



PREL president and CEO Sharon Nelson-Barber accepts the board resolution from BOE members yesterday. From left are members Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Marylou Ada, Janice Tenorio, and chair Herman T. Guerrero.

Limes is named Carolinian Affairs executive assistant

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed yesterday Jose Tilipao Limes as the new executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs, more than two months since the post was vacated by Angie Iginoef-Mangarero for retirement.

Limes' appointment does not require the Senate's advice and consent, and takes effect immediately.

Inos said Limes "is a respectable member of the Carolinian community."

"I strongly believe that his vast knowledge of customary practices and traditions, along with his years of experience in government service, will serve as a tremendous asset to the Carolinian Affairs Office and the people we serve," the governor said in a statement yesterday.

Before the appointment was made official, the governor met with Limes to discuss the administration's goals and desire to see the Carolinian Affairs Office uphold its purpose as stated in Article 3, Section 18 of the NMI Constitution.

The governor also discussed the increasing demand of tourists to experience more cultur-

al activities during their visits to the CNMI.

"There is so much potential during this time when we are seeing very promising signs in our visitor industry. I have asked Mr. Limes to put together some culturally-inspired plans that we can develop to showcase the Carolinian culture and traditions," he said.

As part of this plan, the Carolinian Affairs Office will engage the Carolinian community, the elderly and youth alike, to participate in cultural activities such as artistic demonstrations, traditional dance, and the significance and use of the canoe.

"I'm really excited to have Mr. Limes on board and ready to get to work," the governor added.

Limes is a long-time educator and former vice principal of Garapan Elementary School, as well as the curriculum writer for the Carolinian bilingual program. He is also a well-known musician and local radio personality.

Over the past few years, Limes has been actively involved in numerous civic organizations such as the Youth Advisory Council, the Zoning Board, and the Arts Council,

among others. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Guam.

Limes' predecessor, Iginoef-Mangarero, resigned from office on May 8 "amid her deci-

sion to retire from government service." Since then, the operations of the Carolinian Affairs

Office remained under the supervision of the Special Assistant for Administration.



SWEARING IN

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio is joined by Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider, Senate President Ralph Torres, and Sen. Pete Reyes immediately after being sworn in by the governor yesterday at the Department of Public Lands conference room.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NMC hosts leaders of regional colleges

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Leaders of the region's higher education institutions recently met at the Northern Marianas College as part of collaborative effort to share ideas, address mutual concerns, and discuss the expansion of current partnerships.

Members of the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council, or PPEC, tackled a variety of issues on their agenda, including grant opportunities and articulation of issues, at NMC's As Tellejai campus.

The PPEC is composed of chief executive officers and

presidents of the region's colleges and universities, including American Samoa Community College, the College of Micronesia-FSM, College of the Marshall Islands, Guam Community College, Palau Community College, the University of Guam, and the University of Hawaii Community College System.

The college is pleased to welcome the leaders of postsecondary institutions in the region. Not only does this give us an opportunity to sit down and discuss areas of mutual concern, but the meetings also allow us to discuss accreditation, which is of particular interest for all

Pacific institutions," said NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D.

Accreditation is always a major focus of PPEC meeting agendas, Hart said, since the colleges that are represented in the meetings are accredited by either the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges or the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities.

The objective of PPEC is to encourage and develop regional planning of postsecondary education throughout the Pacific.

The PPEC rotates throughout the region, meeting about three times a year. This past meeting's agenda included a discus-

sion about the National Science Foundation – Advanced Technology Education Partnership for Advanced Marine and Environmental Science Training for Pacific Islands, Guam buildup opportunities, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

PPEC members also voted to ratify formal commitments regarding the reversal of the epidemic of non-communicable diseases in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands.

The next meeting will be held in September in Majuro to coincide with the convocation at FSM, and part of the agenda will include a meeting with Dr. Barbara Beno, ACCJC president.

Chamber supports Tasi Watch program

The planned Tasi Watch Education and Employment Program has received the support of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber president Alex Sablan, in a letter to Children and Families administrator Tim Chappelle of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said the proposed program will create new jobs, provide career development, and assist with job or educational placement while simultaneously fostering environmental stewardship.



Sablan

community rangers have become a lynchpin in their efforts to conserve the Laolao Bay watershed.

"They go weekly and pick up trash and monitor the bay, monitor litter. We actually have data on

how much litter and how much trash they picked up during the week," she said while serving as guest speaker of the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting.

Aside from this, Heller said, community rangers can do written accounts of what happened during their numerous anti-littering campaigns all over the islands. They can also jot down license plate numbers of those suspected of littering or have done any other suspicious activities.

From Laolao Bay, the Tasi Watch community ranger program has expanded to Garapan beaches which tend to be more populated and regularly viewed by tourists. Heller hopes the program will incorporate Forbiden Islands soon.

(Mark Rabago)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950

Website: www.crm.gov.mp

Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



COASTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

July 12, 2013

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Capital Improvement Project	06/14/2013 SMS-201-X-049	Kalebera Cave Development	Marpi	Major Siting	Certified Complete (07/09/2013)

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Charities hold scholarship workshop in Yap

Non-profit organizations Habele and Waa'gey conducted a workshop for parents interested in obtaining tuition scholarships for their children in the 2013-2014 school year. The workshop was held in the afternoon at the community center in Colonia in Yap, Micronesia. Interested parents arrived throughout the day, and volunteers from Habele and Waa'gey were on hand to assist them in the application process. The workshop was the first of its kind for Habele, and around 40 applications were received during the course of the event.

The workshop also marked the first time that Habele accepted K-12 scholarship applications from students from the main island of Yap. Previously, scholarships had been limited to outer island students from Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei States, due to Habele's limited finances. This year, however, the contributions of several generous donors, especially the Germany-based financial services corporation Yaptital, made it possible for Habele to expand its scholarship program to mainland Yapese students as well.

"Yaptital has been a crucial partner in our ability to expand our scholarships this year," said Habele board member Alex Sidles. "Without Yaptital's assistance, we wouldn't be able to accept nearly as many students."

The workshop on Yap enabled families without Internet access to complete applications. "Not everyone has access to a computer or a printer," said Larry Raigetal, of Waa'gey

OAG seeks deposition of man suing cop for police brutality

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General wants to take the deposition of Jin Dong Wang, a man who is suing for police brutality after a police officer allegedly beat him up and hit his head with a gun's butt.

Assistant attorney general Charles Brasington, counsel for police officer Jesse L. Dubrall, told the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday of their intent to take Wang's deposition on Aug. 13, 2013, at the OAG's Civil Division.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

Last July 9, attorney David Banes, counsel for Wang, also notified the court that they will take the deposition of Dubrall on July 19, 2013, at the O'Connor law firm in Susupe.

In May this year, the parties in the lawsuit asked the court to set a settlement conference before District Court Judge Alex Munson on Aug. 30, 2013.

Wang suffered a large cut in the head. He alleged that Du-



Habele directors Regina Raigetal of Fais Island and Alex Sidles of Washington State answer questions from parents seeking K-12 tuition scholarships for their children.

who assisted in organizing and conducting the workshop. "In fact, it's often been the neediest families who have the hardest time getting their applications turned in."

Due to the strong positive feedback Habele received from the community about the workshop, Habele plans to conduct a similar workshop on Yap every year. Habele will still accept scholarship applications over the Internet but the new annual workshop will enable families without Internet access to apply. "We want to be as inclusive as possible when accepting scholarship applications. An annual workshop is the best way to do that," said Sidles.

Habele will announce its decisions regarding scholarship applications in August. Families will be notified individu-

ally whether their student's application has been approved or declined. In the case of a

declined application, Habele encourages the family to apply again next year. (*Habele*)

Yvette thanks sponsors

Saipan-born Yvette Bennett, the 2013 Miss Idaho International, recently thanked her family, friends, and sponsors for supporting her in last month's 2013 Miss USA International pageant in Kissimmee, Florida.

"This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life so far. It was such an honor representing the great gem state of Idaho. I placed in the top 15 semifinals and won the Spirit Award. I feel truly blessed and know that this experience would not have been possible without the great support of my sponsors, family, and friends," she said in a posting on her Facebook page.

She went on to enumerate her many sponsors, including Laurie Anne Tenorio Gentry, Nena Earl, Copies Plus Nampa, Dairymen of Idaho, Kautz family, Heather Malloy and her family, Jhumil S. Esposo, Bronco Motors Hyundai, Hubert A. Anika, Clarence Tenorio of Joeten Superstore, Juan Nekai Babauta and family, Kinai DLG. Salas, Ed and Nona Salas, Herb Soll, Lourdes Mendiola, Ana Baer, Elia De-

leon Guerrero, Laura Brown, Rose LG Muna, Tim Thornburg, Benigno R. Fitial, Anicia Cabrera, Kagman Elementary School staff, The "Rai" Familia, Juan L. Babauta and family, Tess A. Reyes, Sue B. Tris, the *Saipan Tribune*, the *Marianas Variety*, Joe and Penny Norita, Kagman High School staff, and her parents, Lillian and Ambrose Bennett.

"Thank you all so much from the bottom of my heart!" she said.

Next up for Bennett, according to her father Ambrose, is competing in the upcoming Miss USA and/or the Miss America contests.

In an earlier interview, the elder Bennett said young ladies who win national and international crowns usually spend years participating in pageants before winning the national title.

He said Yvette realizes this and is willing to do the work to make it happen. To help her reach that goal, Ambrose and his wife Lillian will be forming a network that can put their daughter over the top at the national level. (*Mark Rabago*)

Red flag up at 6 Saipan sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six beaches on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beaches are the DPW Channel Bridge, Smiling Cove Marina, Samoa Housing, Hafadai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, and the Chalan Kanoa Dist. 4 Lally Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the

water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from 38 locations on Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday.

Marine Water Quality Report are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality report. To do so, send an email to waterquality-type@deq.gov.mp. (*PR*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 18, 2005

Submerged lands appeal junked

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has junked the request of the CNMI government for a full-panel rehearing on its dispute with the federal government over 264,000-square miles of submerged lands in the Northern Marianas, leaving the Commonwealth with a slim chance in obtaining judicial relief favoring its claim of ownership. Elevating the matter of ownership before the U.S. Supreme Court remains the option left for the CNMI to assert its ownership of the submerged lands. But the High Court hears only a very small percentage of all the cases being elevated to it for appeal.

Tourist arrivals down 5.6 percent

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas dropped by 5.6 percent last month, as compared with June 2004, due to decreased airline seats capacity from the Commonwealth's two biggest tourist markets. The CNMI received only 43,155 visitors in June 2005, posting the biggest percentage decline since the start of the current fiscal year. The number of visitors from Japan—the CNMI's primary market—reached only 30,469 in June, sliding 7 percent from the same month last year. The Marianas Visitors Authority noted that the 15-percent drop in arrivals from the Kanto region, which includes Tokyo, contributed greatly to the overall decline of total arrivals from Japan. This decline was not offset even by growths registered by the Kansai and Tokai regions, the second and third largest markets from Japan.

July 18, 2006

Gloves off in budget talks

Rep. Crispin M. Ogo made good on his word that he would not let his fellow Rota lawmaker, Sen. Paul Manglona, attend budget deliberations at the Legislature. Ogo, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, refused to start yesterday's budget meeting until Manglona left the House chamber. He also asked the media to leave. Manglona initially refused to step out, saying that he would only leave if asked to do so by the Sen. Maria Pangilinan, vice chairwoman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee. The committee's chairman, Senate floor leader Felix Mendiola, was not present at the time.

Draft emergency regs for new power rates complete

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has completed the drafting of the emergency regulations to implement within 10 days the new power rates that were recommended by a consulting firm that conducted a rate study for CUC. CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis, in a telephone interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday afternoon, disclosed that the new rates would immediately take effect once Gov. Benigno Fitial and Attorney General Matthew Gregory sign the emergency regulations. Mathis explained that CUC commissioned Economists.com to conduct the rate study in September 2005. "This is not sudden," she stressed.

July 18, 2007

June arrivals lowest in FY07

Last month's tourist arrivals declined by 22 percent—the lowest dip in the first nine months of Fiscal Year 2007—with key markets showing marked declines in arrivals. The plunge was even steeper when comparing calendar years. MVA reported a 55.22 percent decline during the first six months of 2007. From the 221,234 visitors posted from January to June 2006, the figure went down to 195,011 this year. At the same time, June's arrival data showed a continued drop in Japanese arrivals at 31 percent.

NMI gas price still costlier than costliest in US

If Nebraska has the highest gas prices in the U.S. mainland with its \$3.34 average price per gallon, it's got nothing on the prices of gas in the CNMI. Quoting a nationwide AAA gas survey, the Associated press said that Nebraska has the costliest gas prices in the nation, edging Michigan to take the dubious honor of having the most expensive gas in the mainland. At \$3.34, the average price for a gallon of gas in Nebraska was down a little less than a cent from Saturday, but Michigan was down more than a cent and slightly lower than Nebraska, the report said. That puts Nebraska at 29 cents above the national average: \$3.05 per gallon. In the CNMI, though, average gas prices for regular in both Shell and Mobil were at \$3.54 per gallon of yesterday afternoon. Their average price for premium or super was at \$3.71 a gallon, while diesel was averaging at \$3.66 a gallon.

Climate change ambassadors take on plastic bag challenge

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance held its Schools for Environmental Change intern training this past Saturday, July 13. Five students from Saipan Southern High School and Marianas High School will spend four weeks this summer encouraging consumers to reduce their use of plastic bags when grocery shopping.

In March, two of the interns were a part of a larger group of 22 high school students trained as Climate Change Ambassadors during MINA's Schools for Environmental Change Workshop. According to MINA executive director Sam Sablan, "We are excited to build on the work we started when we trained these young, bright climate change ambassadors in March on ways to help their schools adapt to the impacts of climate change at their respective campuses. They learned various ways to reduce our carbon footprint, including increased recycling efforts, installing energy efficient light bulbs, and planting more trees."

Last Saturday's training addressed plastic bag use. The main goals of the No Need Bag Campaign include helping to promote the use of reusable bags in the CNMI, educating the community about plastic



MINA

Schools for Environmental Change interns pose with reusable shopping bags. From left: Anathalia David, Yijia Zhao, Dayanara Flores, Royze Banades, and Jua Son.

bag use, and its impacts on the environment.

Currently, the interns are spending time doing research and conducting interviews on plastic use in the CNMI. According to intern Dayanara Flores, a 2013 graduate of Saipan Southern High School: "The U.S. Environmental [Protection Agency] reports

that Americans use 100 billion plastic shopping bags in a year. They can take up to 1,000 years to break down, so even when an animal dies and decays after ingesting a bag, the plastic re-enters the environment, posing a continuing threat to wildlife."

When burned, plastic releases toxic fumes that are harmful to

people, animals, and the environment. Anathalia David of Marianas High School shared that "inhaling fumes from burning plastic can increase the risk of heart disease, aggravate respiratory ailments such as asthma and emphysema, and cause rashes, nausea and even headaches."

Sablan said, "This campaign

addresses two major priorities for MINA: climate change and land-based pollution. Through the reduction in our use of plastic bags, we reduce land-based pollution as well as our carbon footprint, leading to a reduction in our impact on climate change."

The other environmental priority is unsustainable fishing,

which MINA will be addressing through its Managaha Pride Campaign launching this fall, which seeks to reduce poaching in the Managaha Marine Conservation Area. For more information on how you can work to sustain the natural environment to ensure our island way of life, contact 233-REEF or visit minapacific.org. (MINA)

Water outage in Dandan, Kannat Tabla on Friday

Residents of Dandan (Airport Road), Fina Sisu (Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road) and Kannat Tabla (Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Road) will experience a nine-hour water outage on Friday, July 19, 2013, from 8am to 5pm, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC Inc., to make the connection to the existing wa-

Tun Herman Pan Rd. (Airport Rd.), Fina Sisu residents living along Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road, and Kannat Tabla residents living along Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Road.

CUC encourages its customers to call the CUC Call Center at (670) 235-0282 or 235-2282 if you have any complaints about having no water or low-pressure water as GPPC Inc. transfers CUC's existing cus-

tomers from the old 8-inch ACP waterline to the new 12-inch PVC C900-07 waterline.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

UOG Theatre Camp presents 'The Jungle Book'

The University of Guam Summer Theater Camp will debut Rudyard Kipling's classic story of family and friendship, *The Jungle Book*. Adapted for the stage by Tracey Power, *The Jungle Book* is the story of an abandoned boy named Mowgli, who must learn to find his place

One-lane closures are to be expected on Airport Rd. as GPPC Inc. begins the construction work for road restoration.

"CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption. CUC's operations team and

GPPC Inc. will be working hard to return service to our customers in these affected areas as soon as possible," a CUC statement said.

Contact project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 235-7025-30 Ext. 324 for more information. (CUC)

within the jungle and its community of animals.

Campers, whose ages range from 10 to 14 years old, had the opportunity to work in all aspects of theater production including acting, costumes, makeup, and sets for a professional performance and qual-



RED CROSS TRAINING

Summer interns of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Summer Institute show their Adult First Aid/CPR/AED certificates after successfully completing the six-hour course, Tuesday, July 16, at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter on Airport Road. The 18 interns learned lifesaving skills such as how to respond to cardiac emergencies and perform CPR, how to treat certain sudden illnesses and how to control external bleeding.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



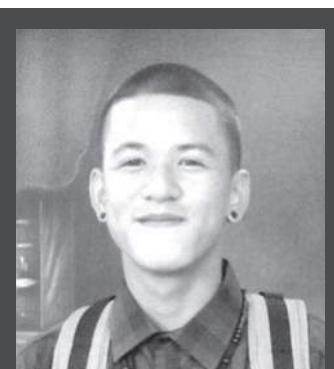
Happy 6th birthday to our little man, Michael JR. G. Camacho! Wishing you all the happiness life brings, love, good health, and many more blessed years to come. We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and your siblings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy sweet 6th birthday to our princess, Mai Janae Sakai-Peters, fondly known to us all as Maimai! May you have a wonderful and delightful day and may you continue to be blessed with many more birthdays to come, and remain sweet and adorable. Love always, Mommy, Daddy, Mikey, Matthew, Max, your entire family, and your Super Uncle Nino Charisma!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 19th birthday greetings go out to Russell Hocog, who celebrates his birthday today, Thursday, July 18! We hope you're enjoying your summer! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Have a great one! Love always, your Mom and Dad, your brothers Kyle, AJ, and Nobet, your Ate Ina, and your favorite Nino, Charisma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The law doesn't always satisfy our sense of justice

Perhaps the toughest task of any jury, especially one involved in a criminal trial as high-profile and emotionally charged as that of George Zimmerman, is to separate fact from supposition.

What is legal and provable doesn't always satisfy our collective sense of justice—or our innate desire that a trial definitively reveal a crystal-clear truth. When a case is rife with gaps and fails to account for every pivotal moment—as was the case in this deadly confrontation on Super Bowl Sunday more than a year ago—the legal outcome may feel incomplete.

In the hours after a Florida jury acquitted Zimmerman of killing 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, protesters across the country reacted as if a trial should automatically yield a conviction. Some characterized the outcome as racial injustice. Some called for the Justice Department to pursue a federal civil rights case against Zimmerman.

There are probably as many opinions about this case as there are Americans, but the nation's criminal justice system isn't built on a foundation of opinions. Would you want to be convicted on a presumption of guilt that fills in an otherwise incomplete storyline?

Yes, America has unresolved issues with perceptions of race and criminality, regrettable perceptions that mean that black teenagers in hoodies walking alone on a rainy night receive unwarranted—and unfounded—scrutiny. Yes, Zimmerman, a wannabe cop, contributed to the confrontation by getting out of his vehicle instead of allowing uniformed police officers to investigate.

No one other than Zimmerman knows for sure who made the first threatening act, threw the first punch, uttered intemperate language or cried out for help during a 911 call.

Jurors were left to pick an imperfect option based on far from perfect evidence. They had to decide whether to assign blame to Zimmerman, who followed Martin after being told not to do so, or decide that he acted properly in self-defense during the fight. They had to make that judgment with only one of the combatants able to tell his side of the story. Ultimately, jurors concluded the prosecution failed to make its case.

This case should be a cautionary tale when it comes to elevating a criminal case into *cause célèbre* status to try to prove wider injustice.

This nation has a long, ugly racial history that can't be wished away, and the shooting rightly deserved the rigorous examination it received at trial. The legal system owes this to the victim and to the accused. Martin's family asked that their son's death be investigated. Not only was it investigated, it was prosecuted.

The acquittal doesn't mean the jury absolved Zimmerman from any role in the altercation. It just means that, under the law, jurors didn't think the prosecution delivered on its theory of what happened that evening.

While that may not be satisfying, it is the law. All anyone can ask for is what this case fairly received—it's day in court.

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ON THE BORDER WITH JANET NAPOLITANO

Shu Chengdu can do

Chengdu can, Chengdu do! Ignore the grammar. The phrase is an international business forum theme hosted in Chengdu this June. Of our title, fast backward. Shu is the old kingdom that flourished in Sichuan before the Zhou, Qin, and Han dynasties. Those were the royal houses that got China over the Gregorian calendar's divide.

Chengdu hosts a very ancient civilization. Fast forward. We have a nation building itself on the skeletal structure of its past with a recognizably modern dynamic and flavor.

When the Chinese Communist Party set the geographical boundaries in 1945 to make ideology (the Party) the core of political decisions rather than the interest of the Middle Kingdom Han ethnic majority, it was an inspired act of unifying a diverse culture into a mosaic of 56 groups all operating out of Beijing's time zone. The democratic practice is taking its time to take hold and socialist context is not always immune from official corruption, but the people's republic is increasingly becoming the republic of the people!

Whatever the CCP failed to accomplish in unifying Zhongguo, China Mobile's sky (*tian*) beams did. Chinese parents now say that they do hear from their children often enough over the cell phone but the annual visit of offspring is getting infrequent. So China just passed a law this year for the grateful and the ingrates to visit their elders or be taken to court. This is more palliative to placate the elderly than it is an enforceable law but much of China heeds the face (*mianzi*) and the prospect of a child losing face by virtue of a parental suit has this law carrying considerable punch.

The cynical will note that non-Han own extensive geography and the people between the two rivers of *Huang He* (Yellow) and the *Chiang Jiang* (Yangtze) jealously relish. The aggressive Manchus in Dong Bei adapted to the ways of the Han as the Qing Dynasty; the Mongols did the same earlier as the Yuan. Fear of a northern threat built the Great Wall. But if the Mongols and Manchus willingly turned Sino, the Hans have managed to become the majority all throughout the nation save Xinjiang and Xizang.

The Zhang, Kham, Yi, Miao, etc. of the south and southwest integrated themselves, or were conquered. The Uighur of Xinjiang and

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Szechuan hot in one of Chengdu's alleys.

JAIME VERGARA

Pekingese between her feet, protected by an extended umbrella tail that fits snuggly on a pole, keeping herself and back rider daughter dry. She weaves through traffic with ease along a sea of motorbikers in a city that receives more than 200 days of rain a year. She does this while wired to a mike attached to a cell phone, giving instructions on what to take out of the refrigerator before she arrives home. That takes a lot of skill and grace!

But like the lady on the motorbike, individual Chinese are talking on cell phones as they pay more attention to elements in their imagination, to voices at the end of the digital transmittal, rather than paying attention to their immediate environment. This is an

See SHU on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Color of people's skin

When I dared to suggest that the verdict in the case against George Zimmerman was not a matter of race, a long-time friend of mine who happens to be black (of African-American descent, if you prefer) told me, "It is about race and until you've walked in my shoes, shut up!" Except for the fact that he also happens to be Vietnam War veteran who could kill me with his bare hands and at least 20 years my elder, I might have laid into him. Instead, I walked away saddened at the clear and present danger of racism and how so many of us are unable to transcend the sheer ridiculousness of judging by the color of people's skin. The verdict in this case is not about race, but all too many of us want it to be. Perhaps in the face of something so horrible, it's the only thing that makes sense, something we can all be mad about. How else could such a thing go unpunished?

The death of Trayvon Martin is no doubt a tragedy of the worst kind—no family should ever have to endure such a loss. And to be clear, I am not suggesting that the jury got it right. I simply don't know enough about the case. But what I am saying (despite the fact that this case was branded as a racial issue long before any verdict) is that I don't believe for one second that George

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Miracles

Lawrence M. Krauss in his commentary on July 10, 2013, questions the Catholics' allegation of miracles whenever there is an inexplicable cure of people who could not be saved by doctors.

As a physicist, Mr. Krauss surprisingly resorts to faith or dreams when he says, "If inexplicable events are used as evidence for God, what happens when later science comes along and provides a natural explanation?" Science has not yet embraced the supernatural, and when science is able to explain a miracle, the explanation will be to its surprise a natural explanation.

For instance, with respect to cancer, God has the power to destroy cancerous matter and cause a regeneration of non-cancerous matter. That is the natural explanation of why people who have cancer that doctors cannot cure get cured. It is a miracle because God directly intervenes in the curing of the sick. But like any cure, the body regenerates by the power of God and the sick person is made whole.

In Lourdes, France, people who lost body parts were observed to grow parts. Some animals have regenerative capacity, and it is not unnatural that a person who has lost a leg could grow a leg if God wills that he should grow a leg.

When science recognizes that man's creator made man, science can provide a natural explanation of an inexplicable cure. But we don't need to wait for that time. If the doctors have given up on a patient whom they cannot cure, the patient's sudden cure has to be a miracle whether it will take science a million years to find a natural explanation.

Reynaldo O. Yana
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

SHU

From Page 10

issue we face and deal with early part of the semester in our Oral English classes where virtually all students have cell phones used to text or play games with when the class gets to be too difficult or boring for their liking.

China has gotten mobile since the collapse of export as the engine that drove the Chinese economy, replaced by domestic consumption. The net gain as integral to distributive justice is the new ethos. Our trekking in the last 10 days witnessed a populace on the move to spend their renminbi on local sites and for local products.

In Chengdu, this comes in glocalized alleys. While the old town of Songli and the old village of Pingle have brought global trinkets and cheap plastic products into tourists' bags, the two Chengdu refurbished alleys we visited had French crepes and German liver-wursts, Japanese *udon* and English blood pudding, Indian *chapatti* and Arabic kebabs, even a Seattle Starbuck, with ambience patterned after the traditional tea gardens of the Ming. Tourists from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, Malaysia, and Singapore, along with many other international visitors, just lap off the service, even as the 20 percent of China who owns and can afford the stuff shop and dine to enhance social status.

We are counting our *jiao*, and yes Cheng, we still can do!

Zimmerman was found not guilty because Trayvon was black and he is not—I "refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt" (Martin Luther King Jr.)—the verdict in this case is not about race.

It would seem that, for some, "the joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity" (Martin Luther King Jr.) really was just a dream and that they "seek to satisfy [their] thirst [for justice] by drinking from the cup of bitterness" (Martin Luther King Jr.). "No chains around [their] feet, but [they're] not free" (Bob Marley).

Bigotry is ugly in all its forms. And in this case, as if racism weren't enough, homophobia is the new talking point. Apparently, the "creepy ass-cracker" (not my words) was attacked because he might have been a "gay-rapist" which must mean that the attacker was a "homophobic gay-basher"—not entirely implausible, but are any of us ready to argue that the verdict in this case was about homophobia?

To be quite honest, I am a little surprised that we aren't hearing a mental health/disability angle—maybe the shooter has a history of mental illness or the victim was in special education, so the verdict must somehow be tied to the long, atrocious history of discrimination against people with disabilities...ridiculous, right? Even if both men had disabilities, none of us are likely to conclude that the verdict in this case was about disabilities. The thing is, people with disabilities have endured pain and suffering at the hands of people similar to, if not more brutal than, the worst kind of slave owner, but injecting the race card into this case is somehow relevant and the disability issue is not.

There is no single group of people who can say they've cor-

By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, Inc.



nered the market on discrimination. No doubt some wounds cut far deeper than others, but all of our lives are "still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination." (Martin Luther King Jr.)

And yet, "We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed [our] community must not lead us to distrust of all [other] people, for many of our [brothers and sisters]... have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone." (Martin Luther King Jr.).

For more information on discrimination of people with disabilities, feel free to contact the NMPASI office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or via the Internet at www.nmpasi.org.

Hagas libre natibu!

Gi todo okasion Liberation Day man-adiñgan i offisiat publiku na mana' libre i natibu ginan kelat iya Susupe yan Chalan Kanoa.

Todu sumañgan este sin uma-guadog kau magahet. Yangin mohon machogue obligasion niha pues siempre magpu' i hasgas mana' oppan siha na dinage.

Finenina, haye gumera guine? Ti natibu mumu yan otro nasiun soluke Japon yan America. Mattu man-tai konsensian yan respetun niha ni natibu. Kontodu familiata man-matai pot inakamot uttumu disposision iya Marianas. Ni unu ginan este lau hafa' siha dueñu ya malachai madispone usun tano'ta sin konsentimento-ta.

Kumeke ileghu na hagas libre i natibu. Pues i kada ratu marepite na mana' fan libre hit kabales na dinage. Pot fabot n apara este na insutu kontra tautau tanu'.

Yangin patgon tanu' hau, pues mauleg un' tuñgu' pa'gu na ni unabes 'nai presineru i natibu. Buente pot umafagcha' man-malagnos mañainata yan Independence Day na todun mana' lache palabra.

Lokue', dispues de ha chule' i federat disposision immigration malagnos gi maposña na semana na iya Marianas i koyenturan matmen iya America—ginen Guam—yan che'chu' puteria (prostitution) ni mana' fan hahalom gi bisinu.

I pañgpañg palabra hita man-masogne. Lau siha pumupulan esta asunton immigration ya sige ha' Marianas mayalaka' kumu lugat este siha na babarias. Mauleg tana' tuñgu' si Tihun Samuet na u bira guatu giya guia i este na finatsu sa' ti hita dumespone asunton immigration.

Muebementon Manala'la' Kuttura

Sumen namagof i metgot na muebementu espesiatmente giya Guam pot para umanala'la' tattie i kutturan Chamorro. Desde iya Guam esta sanlagu metgot este na kinalamten hi halom Chamorro. Ti namatman este na pinetsige gi hilu' realisasion "haye yan hafa" hit ni natibu. Ha pañgon este umaligau haf' sessu estoriata ni natibu espesiatmente i dignota kumu tautau tanu'.

I machalapon tautau-ta hagas ma-impeña fuetsau ni nasiun siha ni humatme tano'ta pot interes niha. Tatnai makonsidera haf' mohon sentimention i natibu gi finatton niha yan fuestsau na disposision gi tautau tanu'. Kontodu liñguahita mapunu' pot fuetsau usun liñguahit niha.

Dinanche yan propiu na kinalamten solamente pot dignun Chamorro. Tatnai sisida para u fan e'ensinahau pa'gu i hagas man-madisplanta na tautau-ta pot destrosiun kuttura yan tradision natibu.

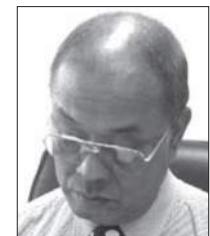
Gi todun pinetsige, naturatmiente na dididi' makat mata'lón makayon i kareran dignun natibu sa' hagas umassun gi chalan 'nai todun gumacha' sin respetu. Gi halom este na pinetsige, hita lokue' solu siña rumeskata i dignota kumu tautau tanu'.

Maila' tafan apipet ya ta petsige manana'lon dignun natibu sa' desti tuuhon i tanu' manparehu hit tautau. Dispues, seguruyu' na ni unabes si guelu yan guela 'nai mañgonfome manaeñ' ñaihōn dig-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



nun natibu soluke mafatkiluye todun ti man-justisiau na otdeñ matiru pot proteksion i manatatte. Pasensiaye sa' siempre tafan mattu gi yanu yan fresku na plaset.

Kuestion ti opiyun

Manadan mediku, amot yan trastes hinemu'. Yangin tana' fan daña todus, debi 'sta i chetnot siha u fan maguñg. Lau ti este masusesede. Manae' hau pedulas dispues madispacha hau.

'Nai imbeninaiu hau, matulaika dididi' i midision. Humanau hau para iya hamyu. Sige un' adibina haf' na timamaguñg chetnotmu daibetes.

Duday' kau guaha amot daibetes. Duday' lokue' kau guaha amot para una' maguñg matai reñihion. Haf' mohon na taiguine este? Guaha 'nai in' hassu haf' baliña i amot yangin ti siña mana' maguñg i chetnot?

Baihu tutuhon umina este na asuntu sa' ansiayu' kumetuñgu' haf' masusesede entalu' i man-mamatitinas yan dumispacha amot siha.

Lokue', kau guaha planu para umamapa kau chetnot daibetes, korason yan matai reñihion gaige gi haga' natibu? Yangin umaestablese na huñgan gaige gi haga' tautau-ta, pues haf' na alibiu guaha pot para ta asegura na ti man-inaminasa mas i natibu gi karera mona?

Usun kotbatan Sears Roebuck

Esta pa'gu ti hu sosoda' antau yan akseptau na esplikasion haf' na man-kinetbabata i offisiat publiku siha. Gi primet lugat, potput i humidu guine ya maipe i lugat. Kau mauleg ha' machansa "heat stroke" pot usun Sears Roebuck na kutbata?

Debi ta fan satton gi hagas humidde na trahen natibu: Sade' para lalaha yan tinifog hagasas para famalao'an. Mampos chadeg ta hatme ti usun tanu'. Kase guaha pumopolu na inadelalanta dididi' rayaña kumu' ma'gas 'sino iyoña IQ (minalate'ña).

Ni haf' taimanu ayu ha chita manu i esta madispone ginan hilu. Ti bai atrebi mas ke haf' manaihu.

Ti hu komprende lau buente patte lokue' gi kutturan Chamorro i guaha siha manchogue ni ti komprendiyon lau chinaflulon ni sensian attifisiu! Pot fabot, tunog un' ratu ya un' gacha' i edda' puede siña man-alie' hit mata.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 89° ▾ 78°

▲ 89° ▾ 78°

▲ 88° ▾ 78°

▲ 88° ▾ 77°

▲ 88° ▾ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▾ 80
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 75
Yap	Showers	▲ 90 ▾ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▾ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▾ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▾ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 60 ▾ 49
Beijing	Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▾ 83
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84 ▾ 73
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▾ 60
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 84 ▾ 66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▾ 79
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 59 ▾ 41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▾ 77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 96 ▾ 79
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 74
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▾ 64
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 81 ▾ 75
Rome	Sunny	▲ 86 ▾ 69
Salem	Sunny	▲ 91 ▾ 57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▾ 53
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▾ 75
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 73
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 95 ▾ 79

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Today	2:11 PM	1:03 AM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM	Friday	3:13 PM	1:56 AM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM	Saturday	4:15 PM	2:55 AM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM	Sunday	5:16 PM	3:57 AM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM	Monday	6:15 PM	5:02 AM

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am

Business

Stocks decline on earnings

NEW YORK (AP)—A string of lackluster earnings reports from companies including Coca-Cola and Charles Schwab ended an eight-day winning streak for the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

Coca-Cola, the world's largest beverage maker, fell after the company said it sold less soda in its home market of North America. Retail brokerage Charles Schwab's second-quarter earnings fell short of what analysts were expecting. Marathon Petroleum fell after the fuel refiner forecast weak earnings and said its business was being hurt by renewable fuels laws.

"The expectations out there

for earnings overall, they're pretty modest," said Scott Wren, senior equity strategist at Wells Fargo. "Earnings season is not going to be what drives the market from here."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 32.41 points, 0.2 percent, to 15,451.85. The Standard & Poor's 500 index declined 6.24 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,676.26. The Nasdaq composite dropped 8.99 points, or 0.3 percent, to 3,598.50.

Eight of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 fell. The declines were led by materials companies. Phone companies and technology companies were the two groups that gained.

Coke dropped 78 cents, or 1.9 percent, to \$40.23 after the company reported that its second-quarter profit fell 4 percent. Charles Schwab fell 71 cents, or 3.3 percent, to \$21 after its earnings came in short of analysts' expectations as expenses rose and its interest margins fell. Marathon Petroleum fell \$3.17, or 4.3 percent, to \$69.93.

"Expectations for earnings growth this quarter are fairly subdued," said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist for RDM Financial Group. "However, the important thing for investors is to look ahead to the second half of the year, where earnings are supposed to pick up significantly."

Chrysler to roll out all-new midsize car next year

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. (AP)—Chrysler will start selling a completely new midsize car during the first quarter of next year, company executives confirmed on Tuesday.

The replacement for the aging Chrysler 200 and Dodge Avenger is badly needed for the company to compete with the likes of the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord in the most popular part of the U.S. auto market.

Chrysler's current midsize cars were unveiled in 2006 and updated three years ago. Their designs are the oldest in the

midsize car market, and buyers pay far less for them than nearly all competitors. The 200 and Avenger generally are noisier, get lower gas mileage and have worse rides than the competition, a bad combination in the hotly contested market.

The new car likely will be built with components jointly designed with Italian automaker Fiat SpA, which owns a majority stake in Chrysler.

Apologize for outburst of criticism

QUESTION: I recently made a huge mistake at work. After an extremely stressful day, I expressed some very negative opinions about the company in general and my manager in particular. Because several people overheard these comments, my boss eventually found out about them.

Since then, my manager has made frequent cutting remarks about my attitude and performance, sometimes in the presence of other staff members. Is there any way to repair this disaster, or should I just look for another job?

ANSWER: If the relationship with your boss was reasonably good before this unfortunate occurrence, and if your disparaging comments weren't too personal, then you may be able to recover. The only way to find out is to offer an honest, heartfelt apology.

For example: "Mary, I'm afraid you may have heard about some remarks I made when I was feeling very stressed. I was dealing with a difficult project and said some things I truly did not mean. I want you to know that I really respect and appreciate you, so I hope you will accept my apology and disregard those stupid comments."

Having expressed your regret, stop talking and wait for your boss's reaction. With any luck, she will say that all is for-

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



given, but if she's still upset, you may have to reiterate your remorse. After that, you just need to become the most pleasant, supportive employee your manager has ever met.

Q: The business I joined 11 months ago was recently purchased by a Fortune 500 company. Since then, the starting pay for new hires has increased significantly. However, no similar adjustment has been made to my own salary, nor have I received any other type of pay increase.

I never mentioned these concerns because I was applying for a promotion and did not want to rock the boat. Now the promotion has gone to someone else, and I'm beginning to feel angry and unappreciated. I believe that management is taking advantage of me.

Although I am presently seeking other employment, I would still like to increase my cash flow. How should I address these pay issues?

A: Let's take a moment to consider the bigger picture. The

vast majority of new employees do not receive salary increases or promotions during their first year, so you may be suffering from unrealistic expectations. If that's your primary reason for jumping ship, perhaps you should reconsider.

Also, your narrow focus on pay may have caused you to overlook an important fact. As a result of this acquisition, you have actually joined another company without changing jobs. In a large corporation, you may find opportunities and career paths that did not previously exist.

Acquisitions typically include a detailed process for "mapping" existing employees into the pay scale of the acquiring company. Your human resources manager should be able to explain the post-acquisition pay structure and correct any inadvertent errors.

Finally, remember that corporate rewards are generally given to those viewed positively by management. So if you are hoping for raises and promotions, you will need to let go of your anger and resentment.

Nation

Obama: Debate on immigration overhaul will slip into the fall

WASHINGTON (AP)—

President Barack Obama on Tuesday conceded that an immigration overhaul cannot be achieved by his August deadline. With House Republicans searching for a way forward on the issue, the president said he was hopeful a bill could be finalized this fall—though even that goal may be overly optimistic.



differences between the parties on the president's top second-term legislative priority.

"It does not make sense to me, if we're going to make this once-in-a-generation effort to finally fix this system, to leave the status of 11 million people or so unresolved," he said during an interview with Telemundo's Denver affiliate.

The president, in a series of interviews with Spanish language television stations, also reiterated his insistence that any legislation include a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million people in the U.S. illegally. Many House GOP lawmakers oppose the citizenship proposal, hardening the

White House sees the president's outreach to Hispanics as a way to keep up enthusiasm for the overhaul among core supporters even as the legislative prospects in Washington grow increasingly uncertain.

Some Republicans view support for immigration reform as central to the party's

national viability given the growing political power of Hispanics. But many House GOP lawmakers representing conservative—and largely white—districts see little incentive to back legislation.

The president said the lack of consensus among House Republicans will stretch the immigration debate past August, his original deadline for a long-elusive overhaul of the nation's fractured laws.

"That was originally my hope and my goal," Obama said. "But the House Republicans I think still have to process this issue and discuss it further, and hopefully, I think, still hear from constituents, from businesses to labor, to evangelical Christians who all are supporting immigration reform."

Spacesuit water leak ends spacewalk; astronaut OK

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—

In one of the most harrowing spacewalks in decades, an astronaut had to rush back into the International Space Station on Tuesday after a mysterious water leak inside his helmet robbed him of the ability to speak or hear at times and could have caused him to choke or even drown.

Italian Luca Parmitano was reported to be fine after the dangerous episode, which might have been caused by an unprecedented leak in the cooling system of his suit. His spacewalking partner, American Christopher Cassidy, had to help him head inside after NASA quickly aborted the spacewalk.

No one—neither the astronauts in orbit nor flight controllers in Houston—breathed easier until Parmitano was back inside and his helmet

was yanked off.

"He looks miserable. But OK," Cassidy assured everyone. It was the first time in years that a spacewalk came to such an abrupt halt and the first time since NASA's Gemini program in the mid-1960s that a spacewalker became so incapacitated. Spacewalking always carries high risk; a puncture by a

micrometeorite or sharp edge,

if big enough, could result in instant death.

In a late afternoon news conference, NASA acknowledged the perilous situation that Parmitano had found himself in, and space station operations manager Kenneth Todd promised to "turn over every rock" to make sure it never happens again.

ACROSS THE NATION

Missing girl, 6, found stabbed in trash can in La.

HARVEY, La. (AP)—An intensive three-day search for a missing 6-year-old girl from the New Orleans suburb of Harvey ended with the discovery of her stabbed and beaten body stashed in a trash can that investigators had already searched. Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand said Tuesday that a suspect, 20-year-old Matthew Flugence, was being sought in the death of the girl, Ahlilia North, and in an unrelated sexual battery case involving another child earlier this year. Normand said the sus-

pect's brother, 21-year-old Russell Flugence, was arrested and booked Tuesday with obstruction of justice for allegedly withholding information about the case. Jefferson Parish Coroner Gerry Cvitanovich said the girl had two "very aggressive" stab wounds to the neck that probably were the cause of death.

4 jurors distance themselves from Juror B37

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Four of the jurors at the George Zimmerman trial distanced themselves late Tuesday from statements that another juror made in a televised interview. The four

jurors issued a brief statement on court stationary saying that the opinions expressed by Juror B37 to CNN's Anderson Cooper on Monday night are not representative of their views. "The opinions of Juror B37, expressed on the Anderson Cooper show were her own, and not in any way representative of the jurors listed below," said the statement, signed by Jurors B51, B76, E6 and E40. Juror B37 said the actions of Zimmerman and 17-year-old Trayvon Martin both led to the teenager's fatal shooting last year, but that Zimmerman didn't actually break the law.



In this image from video made available by NASA, astronauts discuss the aborted spacewalk aboard the International Space Station on Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

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Asia

Philippines says UN tribunal meeting on South China Sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A United Nations arbitration tribunal has convened in The Hague to look into a complaint lodged by the Philippine government questioning the legality of China's massive territorial claims in the South China Sea, Filipino officials said Tuesday.

Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez told a news conference that the five-member tribunal under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea convened on Thursday in the Netherlands and approved a set of rules to look into the legal challenge the Philippines launched against Beijing in January.

China and the Philippines, along with Brunei, Malaysia,



Hernandez

Taiwan and Vietnam, have overlapping claims across the strategic and resource-rich South China Sea, with Beijing claiming it has sovereignty over virtually all of it. Chinese paramilitary ships and Philippine vessels figured in a tense standoff last year over a disputed shoal, which later came under Chinese control when the Filipinos backed off from the vast fishing area.

There are fears that the territorial conflicts could spark Asia's next major armed conflict.

The Philippines argues in its complaint that China's vast territorial claim, including its occupation of several South China Sea islets and reefs in past years, violate the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea and should

5,700 presumed dead in India floods

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—More than 5,700 people missing since floods devastated northern India last month are being presumed dead, even as rescue officials struggle to bring aid to affected villages, top officials said Tuesday.

Vijay Bahuguna, the chief minister of the state of Uttarakhand, said the government would give 500,000 rupees (\$8,350) to the families of each victim who may have perished in the floods and landslides that hit the Himalayan region in June. The state declared those missing for the past month presumed dead so it could compensate their families, but Bahuguna said there was hope some could still be found alive.

"The search for the missing persons will continue even after they are presumed dead," he said.

The government had earlier put the death toll at 600 but repeatedly stressed that it would be significantly higher. The



AP
A rickshaw driver pushes his rickshaw carrying women through a waterlogged street in Gauhati, India, Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

exact number of people who died may never be known, Bahuguna said.

"The search operations will continue till the family members of the missing are satisfied," Bahuguna told a group

of survivors Tuesday as the state government began handing out compensation checks. Families receiving compensation will have to return the money if their missing relatives are found alive.

(50 miles) north of Patna. The meal was cooked in the school kitchen. P.K. Sahi, the state education minister, said a preliminary investigation suggests the food had traces of phosphorous, which is used to preserve rice and wheat.

2 dead after police open fire in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Opposition supporters attacked police during a nationwide general strike Tuesday in southwestern Bangladesh, prompting police to open fire, a police official said. Two opposition

supporters were killed. The violence took place in Satkhira district when hundreds of Jamaat-e-Islami party supporters were marching to enforce the daylong strike, called to protest the jailing of the party's former chief Ghulam Azam for his role during the country's independence war against Pakistan in 1971. Police opened fire after the Jamaat-e-Islami supporters attacked an officer with machetes, local police official Tajul Islam said. In addition to the two dead, three other activists were injured as well as nine police officials.

World

Snowden asks Russia for asylum

MOSCOW (AP)—National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden on Tuesday submitted a request for temporary asylum in Russia, his lawyer said, claiming he faces persecution from the U.S. government and could face torture or death.

WikiLeaks, the secret-spilling site that has been advising Snowden, and Russia's Federal Migration Service both confirmed the application request. The service is required by law to consider the application within three months, but could do it faster.

Snowden, who revealed details of a U.S. intelligence program to monitor Internet activity, argued in his applica-

tion that the reason he needs asylum is "he faces persecution by the U.S. government and he fears for his life and safety, fears that he could be subjected to torture and capital punishment," lawyer Anatoly Kucherena said on Rossiya 24 television.

Kucherena told The Associated Press that he met the former NSA systems analyst in the transit zone of Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport to give him legal advice and that Snowden made the request after the meeting.

Snowden has been stuck there since he arrived on a flight from Hong Kong on June 23. He's had offers of asylum from Venezuela, Ni-

caragua and Bolivia, but because his U.S. passport has been revoked, the logistics of reaching whichever country he chooses are complicated.

He said Friday at an airport meeting with Russian rights activists and public figures, including Kucherena, that he would seek at least temporary refuge in Russia until he could fly to one of the Latin American nations that have offered him asylum.

The temporary asylum would allow Snowden to freely travel and work in Russia, Kucherena said. He chose to apply for temporary asylum and not political asylum because the latter takes longer to consider.

Panama finds suspected weapons on N. Korean ship

PANAMA CITY (AP)—A North Korean ship carrying weapons system parts buried under sacks of sugar was seized as it tried to cross the Panama Canal on its way from Cuba to its home country, which is barred by United Nations sanctions from importing sophisticated weapons or missiles, Panamanian officials said Tuesday.

It said the 240 metric tons of weaponry consisted of two Volga and Pechora anti-aircraft missile systems, nine missiles "in parts and spares," two Mig-21 Bis and 15 engines for those airplanes.

"The agreements subscribed by Cuba in this field are supported by the need to maintain our defensive capacity in order to preserve national sovereignty," the statement read.

It concluded by saying that Havana remains "unwavering" in its commitment to international law, peace and nuclear disarmament.

Earlier, Panamanian Presi-

Prominent gay rights activist killed in Cameroon

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—A prominent gay rights activist in Cameroon was tortured and killed just weeks after issuing a public warning about the threat posed by "anti-gay thugs," Human Rights Watch said.

Friends discovered the body of Eric Ohena Lembembe at his home in the capital, Yaounde, on Monday evening after he was unreachable for two days, the rights group said in a statement Tuesday.

One friend said Lembembe's neck and feet looked broken and that he had been burned with an iron.

Lembembe was among the most prominent activists in one of Africa's most hostile countries for sexual minorities. First as a journalist and later as executive director of CAMFAIDS, a Yaounde-based human rights organization, he documented violence, blackmail and arrests targeting members of Cameroon's gay community. He was also a regular contribu-



AP
In this undated photo provided by the Erasing 76 Crimes blog, prominent gay rights activist Eric Ohena Lembembe, one of the blog's regular contributors, poses for a photograph at an unknown location.

tor to the Erasing 76 Crimes blog, which focuses on countries where homosexuality is illegal, and he wrote several chapters of a book released in February on the global gay rights movement titled "From Wrongs to Gay Rights."

"Eric was an inspiring activ-

ist whose work was deeply appreciated by human rights activists in Cameroon and around the world," said HRW senior LGBT rights researcher Neela Ghoshal.

Lembembe is the most high-profile African gay rights activist to be killed since 2011, a year that saw the deaths of Uganda's David Kato and South African lesbian activist Noxolo Nogwaza.

Homosexuality is punishable by prison terms of up to five years in Cameroon, and the country prosecutes more people for gay sex than any other in sub-Saharan Africa, according to Human Rights Watch.

In a statement, a U.S. State Department deputy spokeswoman deplored Lembembe's murder. "We condemn this terrible act in the strongest terms and urge the Cameroonian authorities to thoroughly and promptly investigate and prosecute those responsible for his death," Marie Harf said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

20 children die after eating school lunch in India

PATNA, India (AP)—At least 20 children have died and more are sick after eating free meals at a primary school in eastern India, an official said Wednesday. Bihar state official Abhijit Sinha said another 27 children and the school cook have been hospitalized in Patna, the state capital. Ten of them are in serious condition. The children are age 8 to 11. They fell ill soon after eating meals in the school on Tuesday in Masrakh, a village 80 kilometers

Focus

By ROY WENZL
THE WICHITA EAGLE

WICHITA, Kan.—On a 102-degree afternoon here, Bill Vinduska pulled on his bee-keeper suit and raised himself 25 feet in a hydraulic lift, to the eaves under the clubhouse roof at L.W. Clapp Municipal Golf Course.

When you're trying to help save the world, you sometimes get stung, and sweaty. "There are days I just don't want to do this anymore," Vinduska said.

Vinduska would sweat for the next four hours.

To slip into the suit, he'd taken off his shirt, exposing the tattoos: a heavy-link chain encircling his neck. Inside the loop, on Vinduska's chest, lies a red heart wrapped in thorns. It was about 120 degrees under the eaves.

The tats, the shaved head, sweatband and long beard may look formidable and off-putting, but Kansas bee people say Vinduska is one of the better mentors around—hard-working, respectful and smart.

And they say he's one of the few people trying to save the honeybees rather than one of the many killing them off.

If he does help save them, they say, he may end up saving all of us too.

We are killing off the honeybee, bee people say. We do so at our own great peril.

Randy Verhoek, the Texan who leads the American Honey Producers Association as president, said, "The losses we are suffering are simply not sustainable."

Beekeepers, who truck billions of bees all over the country to pollinate our fruits, nuts and vegetables, have lost nearly 40 percent of their hives each summer in recent years, Verhoek said, a catastrophic loss. Bees are dying in the wild, too.

Jerry Brown, a third-generation beekeeper in Haddam, Kan., used to manage 4,000 hives, but he's down to 600, mostly because of colony collapse disorder. Verhoek manages 20,000 hives, and with 50,000 or so bees in every hive, that means he owns a billion bees. He loses millions of them every year.

The EPA is worried. The Department of Agriculture is worried. Scientists and bee farmers say honeybees help feed the world. If the bees die off, Brown said, we will eat nothing but lettuce and cereal and stringy free-range meat. Even the tender beef we eat comes indirectly from bees: They help pollinate the alfalfa that feeds cows.

Bees are part of God's creation and deserve more respect, said Rocky Schmied, a Wichita beekeeper who admires Bill Vinduska.

"I am a Christian, and every time I see honeybees at

work it is one more reason to believe in a creator," he said. "There are so many flowers, all of whom produce nectar at different times of the day, and yet the bees know what flowers to go to when. They navigate back home from wherever they are. They communicate. They work together. I sit there watching sometimes and am amazed at what's going on in those little tiny brains."

■ ■ ■

Vinduska vacuumed hundreds of bees off the shingles, the vacuum hose leading into a containment box. He sheered shingles off with a nail-puller, shingles clattering down. Clubhouse people had called after seeing bees grouped on the roof.

"I wonder what the golfers would've thought if they'd known there's thousands of bees just above their heads," said Vinduska's wife, Candy, while watching her husband at work.

There were about 40,000 wild bees in the roof seam. Sometimes, Bill Vinduska said, they find hives that big inside people's houses. The last removal he and Candy had done before this one was in a west Wichita apartment—inside somebody's closet.

Bees began circling Bill's hooded head.

He cut a hole through plywood. Watching from below, Candy said she had no idea how angry Bill was about to make the bees. "Sometimes they're nice," he had said. "And sometimes not."

■ ■ ■

Many scientists since 2006 have said no one knows what's killing the bees, but Vinduska and Brown and Verhoek say that's not really true. They all say the culprits include bee viruses, a parasitic mite called the Varroa destructor, and several varieties of clueless human beings.

Farmers hose down their pastures and fields with pesticides. Bees bring home the pesticides and die. Big bee operations complain about this publicly, but Bill and Candy say the big bee operations do some harm themselves.

The beekeepers truck billions of bees all over the country, 500 hives to a semi-truck load every spring and summer, setting out hives to pollinate the almond trees in California, and vegetable and fruit farms everywhere else. A beekeeper can collect anywhere from \$50 to \$150 to \$180 per hive to deliver the bees for pollination.

"Those big farming operations are mono-cultures—not



A bee rests on the hand of Candy Vinduska while she and her husband, Bill, work to remove a hive from the eaves of a clubhouse at L.W. Clapp

Saving honeybees, one hive at a time

enough variety in nutrients," Bill Vinduska had said. "So the bees become stressed, their diet isn't good. Makes them vulnerable."

Brown said Vinduska is right. When the beekeepers crowd thousands of hives in one valley, "it creates the same thing you'd do if you crowded a bunch of humans together in one brothel. Everybody gets every pest, and every communicable disease."

Verhoek said county road crews spray all the flowers and weeds in ditches every year now, killing off bee food. And we pave over or plow up every acre these days, he said.

"And yet some people think we honey producers are just concerned about our honey," he said.

■ ■ ■

As Vinduska cut with the saw, a gob of bright syrupy gold appeared in the cut, and began to ooze downward. It flowed lazily, sparkling in the lowering sun that baked him inside the bee suit. He kept cutting.

A golfer wearing a straw hat and shorts drove up in a cart.

"What the—!" he exclaimed. He saw roof shingles falling like autumn leaves, a man in a moon suit 25 feet up, and honeybees lazily circling his hooded head. The golfer must have seen the gob of wild honey, too, because he walked over to Candy. "Hey," he said. "Can I have some of that?"

"Sure," she said. "Bring us a plate." But she grinned after he walked away. "I wouldn't want any of that. It's a sticky mess, and you don't know whether anybody's sprayed the hive."

Candy says she sometimes has to hold her tongue. People can do what they want with their own property, she said. But she knows how vulnerable the bees are, though people are terrified of them. They spray them as though they are wasps.

Under the roof, Bill had cut out a 5-foot section of roofing plywood.

He pulled it away.

Underneath, now exposed to sunlight, were tens of thousands of bees, acting sleepy and docile. They walked around on a 5-foot-long yellow-gold wedge of wax honeycomb, filled with brown honey, and darker material, at one end, which was where the queen laid her eggs and the hive raised the baby bee larvae.

They are such vulnerable creatures, Candy said. "People have no idea."

■ ■ ■

When they remove a wild hive like this one, Bill and Candy take it home to try to preserve it. They are by no means the only people trying to save the honeybee. Nearly every beekeeper nowadays is reading, Googling reports, trying to save bees one hive at a time.

Bill and Candy own 200 hives now, housing them at their farm near Marion and on property Candy owns in Oklahoma.

Six years ago Bill began an experiment that continues to this day.

To kill the varroa mite that has killed so many bees, scientists came up with a pesticide that literally killed a bug living on a bug. It was a fine piece of work. But it didn't last.

Varroa mites got creative,

genetically. The pesticide would kill off maybe 99 percent of the mites, but the surviving 1 percent developed a resistance to pesticide. Then the next year, pesticide killed only 98 percent of the mites.

All they did in the end was create a resistant varroa mite.

Bill six years ago stopped using pesticide or any other chemicals in his hives.

"I lost big," he said. "About 35 percent."

He did the same thing the next year. "I lost 33 percent. The next year, 25 percent. And so on."

He let nature take its course. And the bees began developing an increasing ability to survive the mites. He and Candy work hard at this. They grow clover for the bees on their farm. He said other beekeepers are adopting chemical-free methods and that it works.

■ ■ ■

In June, Bill and Candy studied "queen rearing" at a workshop at the University of Nebraska. Because queens determine the genetics—and therefore the strength—of an entire hive, learning how to replicate good queens means they can replicate stronger hives, one hive at a time.

Brown said that's the kind of work that might save the bees. Other beekeepers, including himself, are doing variations of the same thing. A few years back, he donated 500 hives to scientists to do the same kind of work, building genetic strength. Out of 500 hives, only 20 survived, he said. But they learned things.

Candy said she didn't think criticizing or lashing out at the Monsantos of the world was a

good idea. Instead, she said, bee people ought to do what they can to educate and persuade. If they are approached the right way, the chemical companies might find solutions, she said.

Dealing with mites is one thing, Brown and Verhoek said. Dealing with humans is another.

■ ■ ■

At Bill's farm in Marion County, he and Candy rode a four-wheeler to the 40 hives he keeps in the shade a few hundred yards south of his home. After he shut off his engine, he could hear a low, steady, rumbling hum, from hundreds of thousands of bees busy inside the hive boxes a few yards away. The air was thick with bees coming and going.

Bill used to run the Bullseye shooting range in east Wichita, but about 15 years ago he got a notion to face one of his great fears. Bees scared him half to death, so he became a beekeeper, getting stung, getting tired and sweaty, getting stung some more.

The first time he set down his first hive on the ground when he got started, he said, he pulled the tape off the opening and ran like a scared little boy. But after that, the hobby became a business, and the business, when the bees became endangered, became something more profound.

He and Candy walked up to one of the hive boxes. They'd left the bee suits in the bed of the four-wheeler, and walked up to the box wearing shorts and T-shirts; Bill also wore a cowboy hat.

Bill removed bricks holding down the hive box lid, then slowly pulled the lid off, exposing thousands of honeybees, who ignored him and kept working around the golden yellow honeycombs they were making in the squares inside the box.

Bill leaned in, looked down inside the hive.

"Hello, girls," he said.

Environment

By MARINA VILLENEUVE
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—Power plants across the country are at increased risk of temporary shutdown and reduced power generation as temperatures and sea levels continue to rise and water becomes less available, the Department of Energy said Thursday.

By 2030, there will be nearly \$1 trillion in energy assets in the Gulf region alone at risk from increasingly costly extreme hurricanes and sea-level rises, according to the Energy Department report on the impact of climate change on energy infrastructure.

"As President Obama said

Changing climate poses threat to power plants, US report says

in his speech last month, climate change is happening," said spokeswoman April Saylor in a statement. "As climate change makes the weather more extreme, we have a moral obligation to prepare the country for its effects."

The report calls on federal, state and local governments to more urgently prepare critical infrastructure—particularly coal, natural gas and nuclear plants—for the compounded risks posed by floods, storms,

wildfires and droughts.

"All of our science goes in one direction: the damages are going to get worse," said DOE assistant secretary Jonathan Pershing. "It will take dozens of actors from government and private sectors planning what to do and how to make it cost effective."

The report notes that average temperatures have increased 1.5 degrees since 1900. More than 130 extreme weather events costing \$1 bil-

lion or more in damage have occurred since 1980.

It says that 2012 was the second most expensive year for weather and climate disasters, with \$115 billion in damage from Hurricane Sandy and extended drought.

Higher peak electricity, costing consumers \$45 billion, will require an additional 34 gigawatts of new power generation capacity in the western United States by 2050. And as infrastructure ages, storm-related

power outages are likely to become increasingly frequent, at an annual cost of \$20 billion to \$50 billion.

"More and more communities are analyzing vulnerabilities and their risks, and developing plans in response to those risks," said Brian Holland of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. Holland said more state and federal support is needed for communities, who also pursue private funding.

Greenpeace USA spokesman Robert Gardner said the administration's focus should primarily be transitioning to wind and solar technology, not relying on fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

"The question is why the Department of Energy is really focusing on continuing the problem which has caused this tidal wave of global warming," said Gardner.

Benjamin Cole of the American Energy Alliance, which lobbies for oil and natural gas, said that climate predictions should not be used to justify the "sweeping changes" of Obama's energy proposals, and that alternative energy has not yet lived up to promises.

"We can't continue to dole out money we don't have," for alternative energy, he said.

Wildfires may be warming the Earth more than previously thought

By GEOFFREY MOHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Wildfires such as the Yarnell Hill blaze in Arizona may be warming Earth's atmosphere far more than previously thought, according to a study by Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Researchers at the Department of Energy facility normally chase fires throughout the western U.S., to measure their atmospheric effects. But in 2011, they took advantage of a conflagration that came to their doorstep—the Las Conchas fire that burned more than 150,000 acres and briefly caused the evacuation of the sprawling facility in the New Mexico desert.

"This was just an opportunity in our backyard," said Manvendra Dubey, a senior atmospheric scientist at the laboratory. "It was a freebie for me, so I couldn't miss that opportunity."

After the evacuation ended, Dubey's team set up monitoring devices while the fire continued to rage across the desert scrubland. Their analysis, which included painstaking counting and classification of thousands of particles, revealed components that had not been considered in climate models, most of which have suggested that cooling and warming effects of two



U.S. Forest Service fireman, Bo Rice, 28, works on putting out hot spots while fighting the Carstens Fire in the Sierra National Forest near Jerseydale, Calif., in the Mariposa area on Monday, June 17, 2013.

AP

kinds of aerosols tended to cancel each other out.

The Los Alamos team identified tar balls—spherical, carbon-based particles—that are 10 times more prevalent than soot particles and can boost the heating effect of wildfire emissions, according to the study, published this month in the journal *Nature Communications*.

"We provided the data that shows that current estimates, which are close to zero or show

a very slight warming, are incorrect and the warming will be higher," Dubey said. "We are confident this will change the results and show that fire emissions will have a tendency to warm."

Close examination of soot also showed these particles were sheathed by organic coatings that "act like a lens to focus sunlight and amplify the sunlight that soot absorbs," Dubey said.

Wildfires have increased in

number, intensity and acreage throughout the southwestern U.S. over the last three decades, driven by climate change and forest management decisions to suppress fires instead of letting them take their natural course. That burning biomass pumps tons of aerosols into the atmosphere, directly changing how sunlight is absorbed, and indirectly affecting the process by influencing cloud formation.

"For a given amount of water

vapor in the atmosphere, you could be condensing the water in many, many more small particles. So clouds could become brighter," Dubey said. "These tar balls can get embedded, and soot can get embedded in clouds, and the clouds can then absorb more sunlight and evaporate faster."

Climate scientists generally focus on the effects of two aerosols: soot, or black carbon, and smoke, known as organic car-

bon. Smoke tends to scatter solar radiation, for a net cooling effect. But soot absorbs it. Research in the last decade has increasingly suggested that soot may be the second strongest contributor to atmospheric warming, behind carbon dioxide, the most well-known greenhouse gas.

The Los Alamos researchers also attempted to simplify the complex chemistry and physics of aerosols.

Climate models, they said, should consider aerosols as a combination of tar balls, soot and other particles, including smoke and irregularly shaped specks of dust and salt. Soot, they said, can be further classified by its degree of coating, enabling climate modelers to capture the nuanced effects of these particles.

The study results could push the U.S. back into the spotlight cast on emitters of black carbon, said Dubey, who recently spent several months in India. U.S. policymakers have increasingly pointed to the Indian subcontinent and China as major sources of emissions from burning biomass, largely from wood and charcoal fires.

"All these things emit the same; if you burn wood in your open stove or you have a fire, you have some similar emissions," Dubey said. "I think this gives us all a common language to develop solutions to it."

Study: Air pollution causes more than 2 million deaths each year

By MONTE MORIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Global air pollution contributes to the premature deaths of more than 2 million adults each year, according to new research.

In a study published Friday in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, scientists used a number of mathematical

models to estimate the effects of fine particulate matter—tiny particles, or soot, that penetrate deep into the lungs—and ozone, the main component of smog.

The estimate is smaller than most previous calculations, which pegged pollution-related deaths at more than 3 million a year. The researchers also concluded that climate change has had only minimal effect on

pollution-related deaths.

"Our estimates make outdoor air pollution among the most important environmental risk factors for health," read a statement from lead study co-author Jason West, an assistant professor of environmental science at the University of North Carolina. "Many of these deaths are estimated to occur in East Asia and South

Asia, where population is high and air pollution is severe."

West and his colleagues concluded that about 470,000 people die each year from ozone produced by human industrial activities. (Unlike ozone high in the atmosphere, which provides protection from the sun's rays, ground level ozone is mostly caused by chemical reactions in urban and suburban regions.)

Authors also concluded that an additional 2.1 million deaths were caused by fine particulate matter resulting from human activity. Such particles measure smaller than 2.5 microns in width and are called, PM 2.5. These particles have been linked to lung cancer and a variety of respiratory diseases.

The authors noted that climate change could affect air quality in a number of ways. Moist or wet regions, for example, might

see less ozone production, while drier areas might see more.

Different climate models provided widely differing forecasts, the researchers said, with some models estimating an overall decrease in mortality. When these models were averaged together, the effects of climate change were determined to be small.

"It cannot be clearly concluded that past climate change has increased air pollution mortality," the authors wrote.

Life & Style

Coroner: 'Glee' actor Monteith died of overdose

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—"Glee" actor Cory Monteith, who had struggled for years with substance abuse and once said he was lucky to be alive, died of an overdose of heroin and alcohol, the British Columbia coroner's office said Tuesday.

"There is no evidence to suggest Mr. Monteith's death was anything other than a most tragic accident," the office said in a statement.

The 31-year-old was found dead in his Vancouver, British Columbia, hotel room on Saturday after he didn't check out on time. He was believed to be alone when he died. Hotel video and electronic records indicate he returned to his room by himself early Saturday.

At a briefing Tuesday afternoon, police said they believe Monteith had been dead for several hours before he was found. They said the coroner's report didn't indicate the levels of

heroin or alcohol in his system. They ruled out foul play.

"Our belief is that when he took the heroin he was alone," said Vancouver Police Department spokesman Brian Montague. He added: "There was evidence in the room that was consistent with a drug overdose. We're not providing exactly what we found at the scene."

Police said it was too early for the coroner's office to conclude whether Monteith was the victim of a bad batch of heroin, which turns up from time to time in Vancouver.

Monteith's death recalled the lives of Heath Ledger, Corey Haim and River Phoenix—actors



In this May 25, 2012 file photo, Canadian actor Cory Monteith looks on while attending a charitable announcement at Project Limelight, a not-for-profit children's theatre program, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

who battled substance abuse and died in their 20s and 30s.

Monteith had talked bluntly about struggling with addiction since he was a teenager, calling it a serious problem and telling Parade magazine in 2011 he

was "lucky to be alive."

In that interview, he said he was using marijuana and drinking by age 13, and his drug use was "out of control" by the time he was 16. "Anything and everything, as much as possible," he said. "I had

a serious problem."

Monteith admitted himself to a treatment facility in April for substance addiction, a representative said at the time. He also received treatment when he was 19. He told Parade that his mother and friends had staged an intervention back then, afraid he "could die." However, he said, "I did the stint but then went back to doing exactly what I left off doing."

Typically, the younger a person gets hooked on drugs or alcohol, the higher the risk of relapse. It's also more challenging for people addicted to multiple substances.

"When an addicted person re-enters their environment, they have a lot to negotiate" such as finding a sober network of friends and not giving in to cravings, said addiction expert Dr. Karen Miotto at the University of California, Los Angeles. Such pressures can cause a person to relapse.

Gia Milani, who recently produced and directed a Canadian

film featuring Monteith, this week said he "seemed healthy" when she last saw him four weeks ago in Los Angeles.

"He looked super fit and he was energetic and excited," Milani said. She said Monteith showed no signs of a substance abuse problem while shooting the film a year ago.

"Glee," with its catchy song-and-dance numbers and high-profile guest stars like Gwyneth Paltrow and Britney Spears, became an instant hit when it debuted in 2009. Monteith served as the show's resident hunk with a heart of gold. The show's producers have called him an exceptional performer "and an even more exceptional person."

The publicist for Monteith's girlfriend and "Glee" co-star, Lea Michele, released a statement Tuesday. "Since Cory's passing, Lea has been grieving alongside his family and making appropriate arrangements with them," it said.

country—out and waiting for reprints," said Gayle Shanks, co-founder of Changing Hands Bookstore in Tempe, Ariz.

The novel features London detective Cormoran Strike. Little, Brown has announced that a second Strike novel is planned for next summer.

Signed copy of Rowling book could mean big money

NEW YORK (AP)—Not many people owned a copy of "The Cuckoo's Calling" before word leaked out over the weekend that author Robert Galbraith was, in fact, J.K. Rowling.

But among those who did, a handful managed to get a signed edition. And that could mean a lot of money.

Rowling spokeswoman Nicky Stonehill told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Rowling, the "Harry Potter" author, signed "a few copies" of her detective novel as "Robert Galbraith." Wishing to keep her identity secret, Rowling made no promotional appearances for the book and published quietly in April. Stonehill declined to say how many reader obtained a signed copy.

Bids for a signed first edition topped \$3,000 on eBay by Tuesday evening.

"Yes, those books will have value," said Angel Webster of Bauman Rare Books in Manhattan.

Regis Philbin hosting Fox Sports 1 talk show

NEW YORK (AP)—Regis Philbin's new colleagues were tapping away on their smartphones Monday, tweeting about his new sports talk show, and he blurted out: "All I've got is a bottle of water."

"Crowd Goes Wild" premieres next month with the launch of cable channel Fox Sports 1, and befitting a program debuting in 2013, it will weave back-and-forths with viewers into the broadcast. Producers even hired a social media correspondent.

And hosting all this is Philbin, who turns 82 six days after the premiere.

Executive producer Michael Davies, who worked with

In this Sept. 27, 2012 file photo, British author J.K. Rowling poses for photographers during a photo call to unveil her new book, entitled: 'The Casual Vacancy', at the Southbank Centre in London.

AP



tan. "The first edition is already a scarce commodity, and she only signed a handful of them under vague circumstances."

Webster added that it was too soon to know how much money a signed first edition might be worth. Signed first editions of the first "Harry Potter" book, published in 1997 in England as "Harry Potter and the Philoso-

pher's Stone," are worth thousands of dollars.

Webster said the value of a signed "Cuckoo's Calling" will depend on how well the novel ends up selling and whether it becomes the first book of a series.

"The Cuckoo's Calling" received favorable reviews when it first came out but attracted little attention from

from Philbin's old morning talk shows.

He'll open up each edition of the Monday-through-Friday program with a commentary, and then later interview a guest—who could be an athlete or an actor. There will be debates on the hot sports topic of the moment, but Davies vows the conversations will be more nuanced than one person arguing the pro and another the con of the issue.

And while the NFL, of course, will be the most popular point of discussion, everyone involved promises talk about a broad range of sports. That will inevitably include tennis, a favorite of Philbin's.



Philbin

"We're going to frankly have a lot of fun with Regis' struggles with social media."

Sports may be the theme, but in some ways "Crowd Goes Wild" won't feel much different

the general public. It is now No. 1 on Amazon.com, and publisher Little, Brown and Company has commissioned a new printing of 300,000 copies. Sellers have been out of

stock, and frustrated by the delay in receiving new books, which may take as long as two to three weeks to arrive.

"We're in the same boat as other bookstores in this

IN LOVING MEMORY

Modesta Cruz Pangalinan

June 15, 1929 – July 11, 2013
Known as Do'
Familian "Bila/Bolis"

She is predeceased by her: **Husband**, Pedro Lizama Pangalinan; **Parents-In-Law**, Antonio Borja & Dolores Castro Cruz, Juan & Maria Lizama Pangalinan; **Children**, Juan, Evelyn and Barbara C. Pangalinan

She is survived by her:

Children and Their Spouse: Augustine C. & Asinta B. Pangalinan, Linda C. Pangalinan & Pedro Pinaula, Josephine P. & Rudy C. Aguon, Maria P. & Juan R. Sablan, Lillian P. & Oscar Dlg. Angui, Joanne P. & Jesse Stole, Raymond C. Pangalinan & Pamela Liep, Janet P. & Francisco M. Onedera, Sr., Gregorio C. & Joyce H. Pangalinan, Alvin C. & Joreena Pangalinan

Brothers/Sisters and Spouse: Juan C. Cruz (Maria), Asinto C. Cruz (Isabel), Tomas C. Cruz, Juanita C. Manglona (Frederico), Victoria C. Ibara (Oscar), Gregorio C. Cruz (Bernadita), Francisco C. Cruz

Sisters-In-Law: Consolacion P. Blas, Bernadita E. Pangalinan

She will also be missed by numerous Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Aunties and Uncles.

Last Respects will be held on Friday, July 19, 2013 from 9:00am to 12:30pm at Santa Barbara Church (Upper Level) Dededo. **Mass** will be offered at 1:00pm. **Interment** will follow at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens, Windward Hills.

The Holy Rosary is being said in Saipan at 7:30pm at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Augustine (TE) Pangalinan. Last day of the Rosary will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2013.

Your presence, thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Si Yu's Ma'ase
The Family



Girl, girl groups are making a comeback

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—I'll tell want you want, what you really, really want: Girl groups.

Even if you don't want them—they're back on the scene. A new batch of pop tarts are ready to dominate the charts and fill a void since best-selling groups like Destiny's Child, TLC and the Spice Girls aren't dropping songs as fast as music fans want them.

The duo Icona Pop has one of the year's biggest hits—and possible song of the summer—with the anthem "I Love It." Little Mix won U.K.'s "The X Factor" in 2011 and Fifth Harmony finished third on the U.S. version of the show last year. The fivesome G.R.L. is signed to mega-hitmaker Dr. Luke (Katy Perry, Ke\$ha) and The Rosso Sisters are currently in

the studio with Ron Fair (Christina Aguilera).

Others are using reality TV to help establish their brands: The Saturdays, who have a dozen Top 10 hits in their native United Kingdom, launched a reality show on E! this year and are gaining buzz with their playful, electro-pop tune "What About Us", Bruno Mars' four sisters, the Lylas, will debut on a WEtv series this fall; and Jessica Simpson's father is managing a group, The Alectrix, whose development is being documented on an MTV show.

Here are four girl groups who are rivaling One Direction and The Wanted for your attention.



This undated publicity photo released by RCA Records shows members of G.R.L., clockwise from foreground left, Simone Battle, Natasha Slayton, Emmalyn Estrada, Paula Van Oppen and Lauren Bennett. AP

G.R.L.

The Pussycat Dolls got a makeover.

G.R.L. was originally the new line-up of the Pussycat Dolls, but the group decided to establish a new identity after signing to Grammy-nominated producer Dr. Luke's Kemosabe Records.

"We decided that once all five of us came together and brought our different personalities and we got involved with Dr. Luke, it became something completely different from the Pussycat Dolls," said Paula Van Oppen.

The fivesome, who have been

living together for the past seven months, auditioned for Dr. Luke and Max Martin, who have crafted international hits for female singers like Katy Perry, Ke\$ha, Britney Spears, Kelly Clarkson and Pink.

"I had a journal I wrote in two years ago of dream producers and songwriters I wanted to work with, and Dr. Luke and Max Martin were on the top of our list," said Emmalyn Estrada, the last member to join after she was discovered on YouTube. "They make us feel so comfortable ... You forget

who you're working with."

The group also includes Simone Battle, Natasha Slayton and Lauren Bennett, who sings on LMFAO's monster smash "Party Rock Anthem." The group is working on their debut album and released their first single "Vacation" last month; it also appears on the "Smurfs 2" soundtrack.

"The single actually got released on my birthday, which was the best birthday ever," Battle said. "It's been crazy to have your friends be able to download your song."



This undated publicity photo released by Epic Records shows members of Fifth Harmony, from left, Normani Kordei, Camila Cabello, Lauren Jauregui, Ally Brooke, and Dinah Jane Hansen. AP

FIFTH HARMONY

The five-piece Fifth Harmony is prepping for their international takeover by watching one of girl groups' ultimate albums: Beyoncé.

"We're really like big fans of Destiny's Child. In fact, we went to see Beyoncé last night," said Ally Brooke, as her band mates screamed in the background.

Like Little Mix, Fifth Harmony

formed on "The X Factor"—but the U.S. version—where they placed third last year.

"We didn't know what we to expect because none of us had known each other before," Brooke said. "It's just amazing how we all instantly bonded and connected."

The group recently released their debut single, the punchy pop jam "Miss Movin' On." They said their album will feature pop tracks like it, but will also include "a throwback vibe."

The girls kick off their U.S. tour Monday in Boston and will perform on "Today" on Thursday. They said their live shows will feature more dancing than their performances on "X Factor."

"We know that we have to work really hard and that's definitely something that we're all willing to put in—that's the only thing that's really going to set us apart," said Lauren Jauregui (Normani Hamilton, Camila Cabello and Dinah Jane Hansen round out the quintet).

"We just have to make sure that every time we go out and do our shows that we prove to everyone that we deserve that No. 1 spot and that's what we're going for."



This May 11, 2013 file photo released by the CARRY Foundation, The Laylas attend the CARRY Foundation's 7th Annual "Shall We Dance" Gala at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

she added. "The beauty of being sisters is there is no escaping each other. We have to work it out no matter what happens."

The Laylas—rounded out by Tahiti and Jamie—said they're

inspired by Hawaii's diverse music scene and the performers in their family, including their father and ultra-successful, Grammy-winning brother. Will Mars, who has written

and produced for CeeLo Green, Justin Bieber and Alicia Keys, give his sisters first dibs?

"We'll definitely work with him and you'll have to watch the show to see," Jamie said.



In this June 15, 2013 file photo, from left, Leigh-Anne Pinnock, Jade Thirlwall, Perrie Edwards and Jesy Nelson of Little Mix pose for photographers at the Isle of Wight Festival in Newport on the Isle of Wight. AP

LITTLE MIX

Call them the female One Direction. Seriously.

Like 1D, Little Mix was formed on the U.K.'s "The X Factor," where the girls won the competition in 2011 (1D placed third in 2010.) The group is signed to the same U.S. label as the popular boy band, and the girl group is following the boys' chart-topping

path: Their debut, "DNA," splashed at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 chart last month.

"I thought it was a joke at first," Jesy Nelson said of the album's success.

Little Mix is currently working on a second album that they will also release this year—1D's formula last year.

"We always look at One Direction as opening the gates for us," said Perrie Edwards, who is dating 1D's Zayn Malik. "They work really hard and we just want to follow in their footsteps."

The early twenty-somethings auditioned individually on "X

THE LYLAS

Moms know best.

For the Laylas, the sisters of Bruno Mars, it was their mother who introduced the girls to female singers they most look up to.

"Our mom was an amazing vocalist and she introduced us to all the female R&B powerhouses, so we grew up listening to the Supremes, Aretha Franklin, En Vogue, the girl groups back in the day," said Tiara Hernandez. "That influence really comes through in our music."

Their mother, Bernadette Hernandez, died last month age 55 in Hawaii. The group is currently filming a reality series for WEtv to debut in the fall, when they also plan to release music.

Presley calls being in a group with siblings "a nightmare!"

She's kidding. Sort of.

"It's really fun, but at the same time you can definitely see how hard it is for girl groups,"

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www.REGmovies.com	

Sorry, single ladies: Adam Levine engaged to model

NEW YORK (AP)—Sorry, ladies, but Adam Levine is off the market.

The Maroon 5 singer's representative confirmed Tuesday he's engaged to model Behati Prinsloo.

Levine proposed to Prinsloo over the weekend in Los Angeles. The couple started dating last year. The singer's rep says the 34-year-old Levine and the 24-year-old Prinsloo recently reunited.

Prinsloo is from Namibia and models for Victoria's Secret. Levine also is a judge on the NBC singing series "The Voice."

The Grammy Award-winning Maroon 5 last year released its fourth album, "Overexposed." It features the hits "Payphone," "One More Night," "Daylight" and "Love Somebody."

People magazine first reported the engagement.



In this June 14, 2013 file photo, Maroon 5 lead singer Adam Levine appears on NBC's "Today" show in New York. AP

Jay-Z's new album sells more than 500K in 1 week

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay-Z's new album has sold more than 500,000 units its first week.

Nielsen SoundScan said late Tuesday preliminary data shows that "Magna Carta Holy Grail" moved about 527,000 copies. It

will debut at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart this week.

The album was officially released on July 7. Samsung bought and gave 1.2 million copies of the album to Galaxy mobile phone users on July 4.

Billboard is not counting those sales on its charts.

"Magna Carta" has the second-best first-week debut of the year after Justin Timberlake's "20/20 Experience." The album features Timberlake, Beyoncé, Frank Ocean and Timbaland.

Jay-Z's 12th album had more than 14 million streams in its first week on Spotify, beating a record that Daft Punk set in May with "Random Access Memories."

Wonder won't sing in Fla. after Zimmerman verdict

NEW YORK (AP)—Stevie Wonder says he won't perform in Florida and other states with a "stand your ground" law.

In a video posted on YouTube, the 63-year-old singer said at a concert in Quebec City, Canada, on Sunday "that until the 'stand

your ground' law is abolished in Florida, I will never perform there again."

Wonder added: "Wherever I find that law exists, I will not perform in that state or in that part of the world."

The "stand your ground" law

allows people to use deadly force if they believe their life is in danger.

George Zimmerman shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin during a February 2012 confrontation in Sanford, Fla. Zimmerman said he fired his

gun in self-defense.

A six-member jury acquitted Zimmerman of second-degree murder and manslaughter charges on Saturday.

Wonder's representative said the singer had no further comment.

R&B singer shoved after Trayvon Martin dedication

HAYWARD, Calif. (AP)—R&B singer Lester Chambers is recovering from injuries he suffered after a woman leaped onto the stage and shoved him when he dedicated a song to Trayvon Martin during a concert in the San Francisco Bay Area, a newspaper reported Monday.

Lester Chambers—a member of the Chambers Brothers, best known for their 1968 hit "Time Has Come Today"—had a bruised rib muscle and nerve damage after he was attacked Saturday at the Hayward Russell City Blues Festival, family members told The San Jose Mercury News.

Chambers dedicated the Curtis Mayfield hit "People Get Ready" to the slain Florida teen, the newspaper reported.

Witnesses said 43-year-old Dinalynn Andrews Potter of Barstow yelled "it's all your fault" before shoving 73-year-old Chambers.

"She must have been an acrobat," Lola Chambers, Lester Chambers' wife, told the Mercury News. "She did it in one leap. He didn't see her coming."

Andrews Potter was arrested on suspicion of battery, cited and released.

George Zimmerman, who

identifies himself as Hispanic, was found not guilty of second-degree murder in last year's death of Martin, who was black. The jury had the option to consider manslaughter but declined to convict him of the lesser charge.

The case prompted debate nationwide over racial profiling, self-defense and equal justice. Zimmerman was acquitted Saturday.

Chambers' family wants police to file hate crime charges. Andrews Potter is white, they said. Chambers is black.

Hayward Police did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

NY man pleads not guilty in Deen extortion plot

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A New York man pleaded not guilty in federal court Tuesday to charges of trying to extort embattled celebrity cook Paula Deen.

Court documents show Thomas George Paulis of Newfield, N.Y., appeared in Chatham County Superior Court to enter his not guilty plea.

An indictment filed July 10 in U.S. District Court in Savannah charges Paulis with trying to extort \$200,000 from Deen in exchange for keeping quiet about allegedly damaging remarks she had made in the past. Details on what Deen's alleged remarks were, and the relation-

ship between Paulis and Deen, were unclear.

A complaint said Paulis initially tried extorting \$250,000 from Deen but eventually lowered the amount after a discussion via email with one of Deen's attorneys, Greg Hodges.

Hodges and Paulis eventually spoke by phone. Paulis said he didn't want to leave a paper trail and at the direction of the FBI, Hodges negotiated the amount to \$200,000. Paulis told Hodges he was house sitting in New York, didn't have a car and didn't know how he was going to collect the money, the complaint says.

Federal agents arrested the man in early July.

A message left with Paulis' court-appointed attorney on Tuesday afternoon wasn't returned.

The attempted extortion case took form after Deen's culinary empire began crumbling in response to her acknowledgement in a deposition that she had used racial slurs in the past.

The deposition was part of a civil lawsuit filed in 2012 by Lisa Jackson, a former manager of Uncle Bubba's Seafood and Oyster House, which Deen co-owns with her brother, Bubba Hiers.

Mom resists risking good money on son's bad credit

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: We have a grown son who is married with his own family and home. He and his wife have jobs. My husband and I are semiretired—not rich, but we live comfortably. Our credit score is great.

My son wants us to co-sign a loan for him. I know his credit is not good because I get phone calls from collection agents looking for him. We really don't want to co-sign.

How do I explain this to him? I feel that because I'm his mother it obligates me. I am also afraid he will stop letting us see the grandkids if I refuse.

SCARED OF THE DOTTED LINE

DEAR SCARED: Since debt collectors are calling because your son isn't paying his bills, do not co-sign for a loan for him! If you do, you could wind up having to pay it off yourselves.

Your son is an adult. That you are his mother does not obligate you to assume responsibility in case he doesn't pay his bills. If he retaliates by not allowing you to see the grandkids, so be it. If you knuckle under to emotional blackmail, it won't stop, and it could affect your standard of living for the rest of your lives.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm in high school and my daddy just passed away. I want to know why I have so much anger and hurt about this. I feel like he never got to see me reach any of my goals in life. The main goal was to see my graduation.

What is the best way I can get my mind off this?
YOUNG GIRL IN ALABAMA

DEAR YOUNG GIRL: I am sorry for your loss, which is a particularly difficult one at your age.

It's important that you understand the feelings you are experiencing are normal. Anger is a part of the grieving process, and it may take some time for you to get beyond it.

The best way to "get your mind off this" would be to find a safe place to TALK about it. A grief support group would be helpful. Your clergyperson could help you find one and so could your family doctor.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am writing regarding the letter from "Appreciative in Hitchcock, Texas" (June 17) about the importance of sending thank-you notes.

Maybe this will help others: When our three children were young, we had a "note rule." When they received a present, they had five days to write the note. If written within two days, the note only had to be three lines long. On the third day, it was four lines. On the fourth day, five lines. On the fifth day—the gift went to charity!

None of them ever complained about doing their notes, and it became a habit while growing up. We were proud of each of them when their wedding thank-yous were out within a week!

STRICT PARENTS IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR STRICT PARENTS: Good for you! You taught your children that there were consequences for shirking responsibility. That's an important lesson because the same is true when they become adults.

■ ■ ■

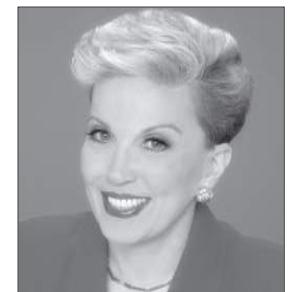
DEAR ABBY: I was wondering, do you ever read a letter and say to yourself, "If this is all you have to worry about, you're lucky?"

JEFF IN FORT MCCOY, FLA.

DEAR JEFF: No. I have more respect for my readers than that. However, many people have written me to say that after reading the letters that appear in my column, they felt lucky!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



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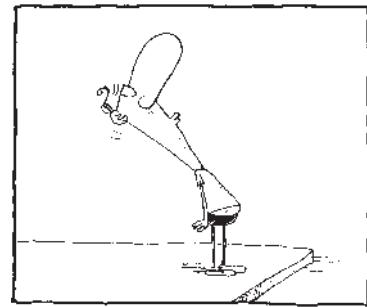
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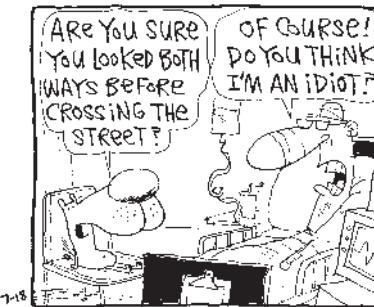
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

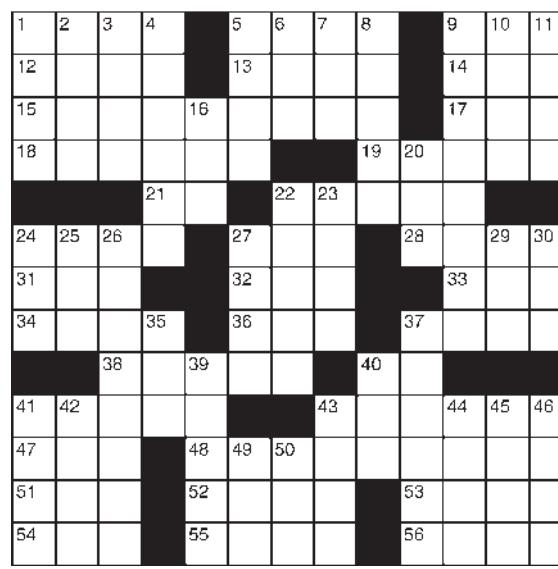
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Equip-	DOWN	25	Historic
1	Peruvian	ancestor	38	Syco-	time
5	Facts		39	phant	26 Burger
9	TV	watchdog	40	Greeting	King
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14	"Eureka!"		43	Japanese	27 Evi-
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21	Fool		47	abbr.	expanse
22	Choice		48	7 First X?	30 That girl
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45	Mess up		68		45 Actress

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-18

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chace Crawford, 28; Kristin Bell, 33; Vin Diesel, 46; Wendy Williams, 49.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on personal finances and fixing and maintaining what you have. Find ways to cut corners or lower your overhead. Making a move or altering the way you live or do things will push you in a positive direction. Money will come to you from an unusual source if you are mindful, helpful and take the initiative. Your numbers are 3, 17, 21, 25, 32, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on self-improvement and refrain from getting into arguments or no-win situations. Back away from anyone putting pressure on you or trying to coerce you into taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you or benefit you. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A mini-vacation or business/pleasure trip with someone you love will enhance your life and your relationship. Greater responsibility is likely to develop due to a choice you make. Don't change your mind once you've made a commitment. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Elaborate on what you have to offer. Diversify and exchange ideas that will help you climb the professional ladder. Keeping up will not be difficult, but being consistent may pose a problem. Do your best to remain balanced and dependable. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Socialize and take advantage of any opportunity you get to show your talent, skills and

adaptability. Approach anyone you feel may benefit from what you have to offer, and be willing to modify whatever you do to suit the needs of others. **★★★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Prepare to make changes at home. Do what's best for everyone, even if it does mean a major adjustment for you. Taking on additional responsibility now may not be your first choice, but in the end it will pay off. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain if you put your talent to work and dive into a project or venture full speed ahead. Don't worry about undecided individuals, focus on who is ready to move ahead. **★★★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Follow your heart and your intuition when it comes to work and relationships with your peers. Show your ability to adapt to whatever comes your way, but don't let anyone take advantage of your good nature or need to keep the peace. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Choose your friends and your interests based on what you enjoy doing most. Find a way to take your skills and explore new ways to turn your talents into a moneymaking venture. Love what you do, and you will do well. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Let your charm and popularity enhance your position. A change in the way you live will bring pleasing results. Before sharing your ideas, make sure your plan is doable. Preparation is the key when it comes to success. **★★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOURTESY 2007
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Follow your intuition when it comes to changes you want to make regarding how you earn your living. The key to greater security and stability will be using what you do best to the fullest. A partnership will be beneficial. **★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Budget wisely. Too much of anything will be your downfall. Discipline regarding your future and what you need to do in order to make positive personal changes should be your prime concern. The payoff will be well worth the effort. **★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let emotions stand between you and your success. A last-minute change must not be allowed to ruin your plans. Be prepared to compensate. Taking over will show onlookers how capable you are. Don't fear moving forward on your own. **★★**

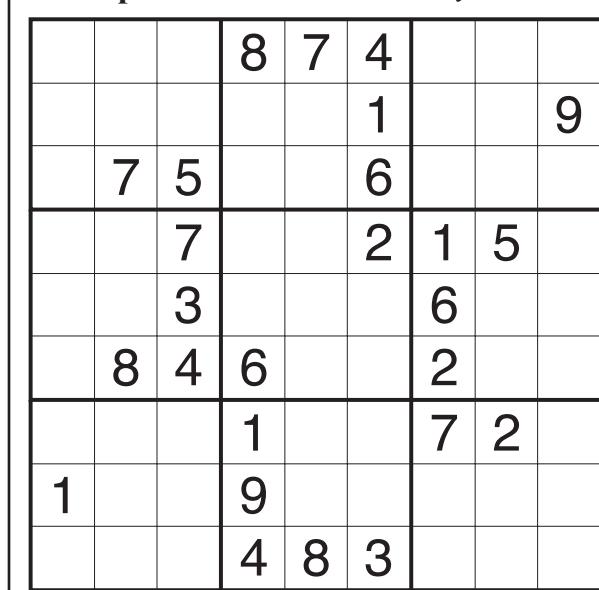
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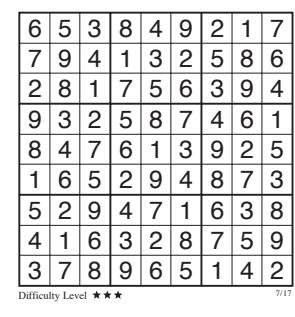
By Dave Green



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By DAVID
OUELLET

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Rivera enters early, helps AL win All-Star game



NEW YORK
(AP)—Mariano Rivera was all set up to save his final All-Star game - or so it seemed.

Jim Leyland just wasn't about to take that chance.

Summoned in the eighth inning to make certain he would pitch, Rivera soaked up a 90-second standing ovation and got three straight outs while helping the American League to a 3-0 victory over the National League on Tuesday night at Citi Field.

"I think the plan was perfect," said Rivera, who took home the MVP trophy.

Rivera reported early for work and the New York Yankees' indomitable closer combined with nine other pitchers on a three-hitter as the AL snapped a three-game skid and regained home-field advantage in the World Series. Joe Nathan saved it in Rivera's place after the American League scratched out a pair of runs and got an RBI double from Jason Kipnis.

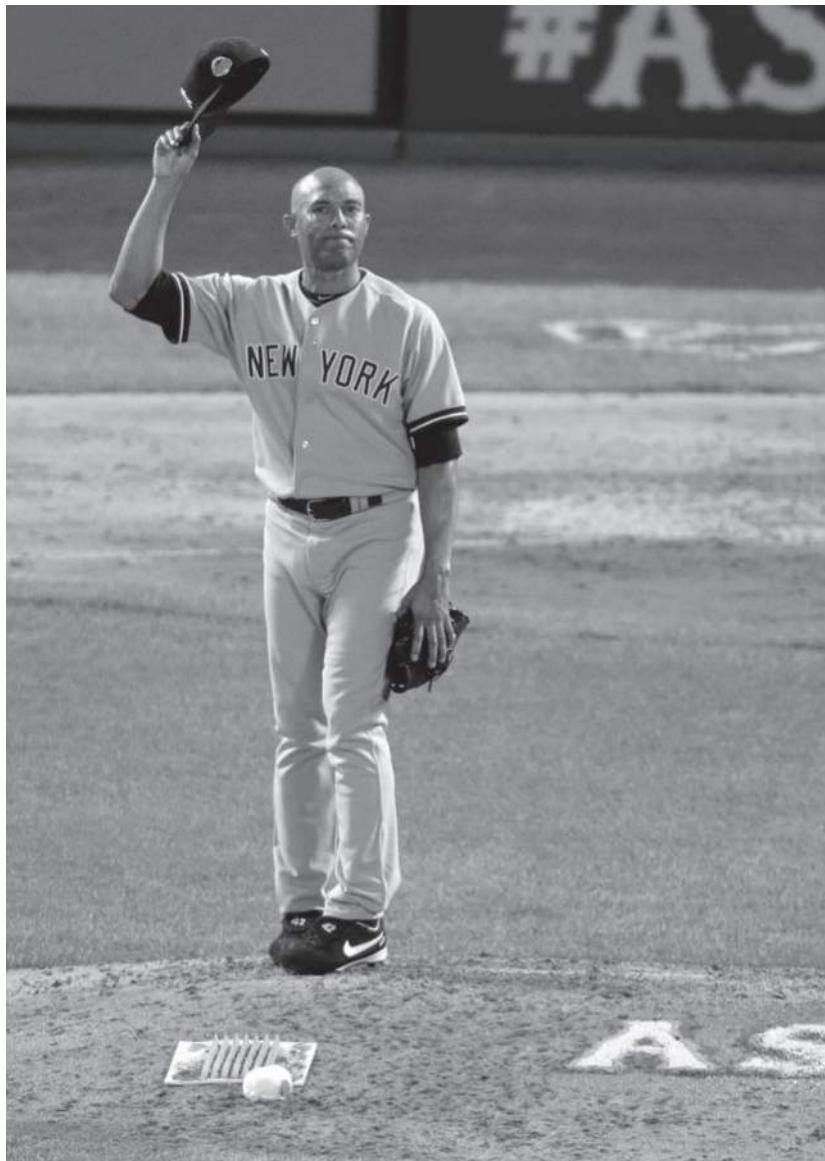
Leyland, the AL manager, had promised Rivera would pitch. So rather than risk waiting for a save opportunity that might never come, the Detroit Tigers' skipper made his much-awaited call one inning earlier than Rivera is accustomed, just in case of "something freaky."

"If anybody ever messed up Mariano Rivera, I can lay claim to that," Leyland said. "I just couldn't take any chance. You know, I'm probably not the most popular manager in baseball. I wanted to make sure I got out of here alive."

Robinson Cano hobbled off early after getting hit by a pitch from cross-town rival Matt Harvey of the host Mets. X-rays were negative and Cano said he shouldn't miss any games for the Yankees.

Harvey and opposing starter Max Scherzer were among a record 39 first-time All-Stars in a game that featured four precocious players 21 or younger—baseball's next generation.

Both came out throwing 99 mph heat, but it was Rivera, at 43 the oldest All-Star since Carlton Fisk in 1991, who was the center of attention in his farewell season. And on this night, with drug suspensions still looming for some of the game's biggest names, the



American League's Mariano Rivera, of the New York Yankees, acknowledges the crowd as he is introduced during the eighth inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game, on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, in New York.

spotlight found a player who is almost universally respected.

Baseball's career saves leader came in from the bullpen to Metallica's "Enter Sandman," just like across town at Yankee Stadium, and was left alone on the field to take in a stirring ovation.

"It was a great moment. He is one of the best pitchers that's ever played this game," Tigers outfielder Torii Hunter said.

All-Stars on both sides clapped from the top of the dugout steps, and Rivera tipped his cap to the crowd.

Then he went to work, retiring three straight hitters on 16 pitches—all cutters, as usual—before walking off to

another ovation and receiving a hug from Detroit ace Justin Verlander.

"It was tough. It was special," an emotional Rivera said. "Seeing the fans sharing and both teams standing out of the dugout, managers, coaches, players—priceless."

Exit, Sandman.

Next stop, the Hall of Fame.

The game's greatest reliever, quiet and humble by nature, addressed his AL teammates before they took the field. He made it quick, just like his outing. Most of them, actually.

"What I said was that I was honored and it was a privilege for me to play with all of them for so many

years," Rivera said.

The lengthy cheers provided a fitting tribute and the latest salute to Rivera, set to retire after this season. The 13-time All-Star is on something of a farewell tour, receiving creative gifts at each opposing ballpark he visits for the final time.

He got a rocking chair built out of broken bats in Minnesota, a decorated surfboard and bottle of wine in Oakland.

The last time he was at Citi Field, though, things didn't go so well. He was honored by the Mets before a game in late May, threw out a ceremonial first ball—and then had his first blown save of the year.

While other All-Stars wore flashy spikes, Rivera stayed with traditional black. No surprise for Mr. Steady.

Rivera has never allowed an earned run in nine All-Star innings. The only older pitcher to appear in an All-Star game was 47-year-old Satchel Paige 60 years ago, according to STATS.

"First class all the way," Mets captain David Wright said. "Well deserving for Mariano. I was on the top step clapping and cheering as loud as I could."

Winning pitcher Chris Sale from the Chicago White Sox worked two perfect innings for the AL, which posted its third shutout and first since 1990 at Wrigley Field to trim the NL lead to 43-39-2 in All-Star games.

The National League didn't manage a baserunner until Carlos Beltran's one-out single in the fourth.

It was the ninth All-Star game in New York—most for any city—and second in five years after a farewell to old Yankee Stadium in 2008. But the only other time the Mets hosted was during Shea Stadium's debut season in 1964, when Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Johnny Callison hit a game-ending homer in the ninth.

This one gave the struggling Mets a chance to pack their cozy ballpark for one of the few times all season. Fans chanted Harvey's name during pregame introductions, and the 24-year-old sensation delivered with three strikeouts in two shutout innings.

He walked off to a standing ovation and received a pat on the back from NL manager Bruce Bochy of the San Francisco Giants, the defending World

Series champions.

Harvey was the youngest All-Star starting pitcher since former Mets ace Dwight Gooden was 23 a quarter-century ago—and the first from the home team since Houston's Roger Clemens in 2004. Gooden cheered Harvey on from the stands.

All the buildup might have made the phenom a little too excited at the start. Mike Trout doubled inside first base on his opening pitch, and Harvey drilled Cano just above the right knee with a 96 mph fastball on the third.

In obvious pain, Cano initially stayed in the game but limped off after Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera struck out—just as he did against Harvey in spring training.

Cano crossed in front of the mound while heading to the dugout, and Harvey patted himself on the chest.

"I didn't mean to, obviously," Harvey said. "I feel terrible. Apologies go out to him."

Cano has a bruised quadriceps but said he'll be ready to play when the Yankees come out of the All-Star break.

"Just a little tight," Cano said. "I'll be good for Friday."

Wright went to the mound for a calming chat with Harvey, who whiffed Jose Bautista to end the inning.

Cano's name came up all night—even after he left the game. A fan in a Cano shirt ran on the field and gave himself up to security near second base as players backed away a bit, but was tackled anyway to the delight of the crowd.

Cabrera's bat slipped out of his hands on a swing and sailed 10-15 rows deep, where it nearly clipped another fan in a Cano jersey.

Cabrera's next cut against loser Patrick Corbin produced a leadoff double in the fourth, and Bautista's sacrifice fly snapped a 17-inning scoreless streak for the AL that dated to Adrian Gonzalez's homer off Cliff Lee two years ago in Arizona.

Baltimore's Adam Jones, wearing bright orange high-tops, doubled against Lee to start the fifth and scored while J.J. Hardy beat out a potential double play. Kipnis doubled home a run in the eighth off Atlanta closer Craig Kimbrel.

Weiner said the union has taken the position that players can't be penalized for refusing to answer MLB's questions in the investigation. Arbitrator Raymond Goetz overturned Bowie Kuhn's suspension of Ferguson Jenkins in 1980, ruling the pitcher couldn't be penalized for refusing to answer questions while criminal charges were pending in Canada.

"Obviously we have looked at Jenkins in connection with this matter and whether or not it would apply, and our conclusion is that it clearly does," Weiner said.

Speaking before Weiner in a separate session, baseball Commissioner Bud Selig repeated his call to toughen penalties in the drug agreement for 2014.

"We've heard from a lot of players that increased penalties are called for. We've heard from a lot of other players that don't think increased penalties are called for," Weiner said. "And I imagine we will work it out at or near in early December and then have a negotiation with them over that very subject."

NEW YORK (AP)—The baseball players' association says any suspensions resulting from the sport's latest drug investigation likely won't be served until next year if the discipline is challenged before an arbitrator.

Union head Michael Weiner expects Major League Baseball will notify the union of its plans for penalties in the next month, and the association will maintain any discipline should not be announced until after a grievance hearing, and then only if arbitrator Fredric Horowitz upholds a ban.

"We're going to have a discussion with them. That discussion will include whether or not names of suspended players will be announced publicly," Weiner said Tuesday during a meeting with the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Former MVPs Alex Rodriguez and Ryan Braun are among the more than a dozen players under investigation for ties to Biogenesis, a closed anti-aging clinic in Florida linked with the distribution of performance-enhancing drugs. MLB of-

ficials have been interviewing players, who have been represented by the union and their own lawyers.

A provision in baseball's drug agreement says discipline for first offenders can be announced before a hearing if the penalty results from an allegation that became public other than through MLB or a team. Miami New Times published allegations in January, but the union could argue that a penalty results from evidence baseball has gathered rather than the newspaper account.

After MLB and the union decide how to process grievances, hearings will be scheduled before Horowitz—but not before September and possibly later. Each player is entitled to a separate hearing, and Weiner said the union wants Horowitz to hear all cases.

"When all the interviews are done, we will meet with the commissioner's office and we'll try to work something

out," Weiner said. "Our players that deserve the suspensions, we'll try to we'll try to come up with a fair suspension.

Our players that don't deserve suspensions, we will argue that they don't deserve a suspension. And I hope we have success. We may not have success on every single player, but I hope we have a fair amount of success."

MLB Executive Vice President Rob Manfred declined comment.

Weiner spoke from a wheelchair and said symptoms have increased in the last month from a brain tumor he was diagnosed with last summer. He currently can't move his right side or right arm and must use a wheelchair.

Weiner said the union will appoint a deputy executive director within a week or two.

Most of his talk was dominated by the drug investigation.

While most suspensions have been for positive tests since the joint drug

agreement was reached in 2002, players also can be penalized for "just cause," based on other evidence.

"In theory, they could be suspended for five games or 500 games," Weiner said. "We could then choose to challenge or not, but the commissioner's office is not bound by the 50-100-life scale."

If multiple players are disciplined, management and the union would have to decide the order of the grievance hearings.

"They've got to prove all those cases. I like Dan Halem, a lot, but he's going to be running around like the proverbial chicken with its head cut off," Weiner said, referring to an MLB senior vice president. "If that's the circumstance, we'll just have to schedule them and get them done as quickly as we reasonably can. And if we have the number that you suggest, it's going to take a while."

Warm, fuzzy feelings as Open returns to Muirfield



GULLANE, Scotland (AP)—Let's see if we've got this straight about Muirfield.

It's a fair test.

There are no surprises.

And it's just plain "neat," as Tiger Woods kept saying over and over Tuesday.

If you've come looking for startling revelations at this British Open, time to move on.

Nothing to see here.

The clichés have been flowing freely as the golfers prepare for the third major of the year, no one daring to say anything that could be construed as the least bit controversial. Golfers, as a general rule, are a bit buttoned-down to begin with, but this week they seem especially reluctant to open up or express the least bit of discontent.

That figures to change Wednesday, when the Royal & Ancient, the tournament organizer, will surely get grilled on Muirfield's male-only membership policy—especially in light of Augusta National handing out green jackets to females for the first time at the home of the Masters.

But no one who'll actually hit a shot this week has been willing to take sides on the issue.

"I don't make the policies here," Woods said. "I'm not a member, so I'm not going to speak for the club."

But if you want to ask the players about the course itself, they'll gladly dole out the accolades.

Again and again and again.

"Bad golf gets punished and good golf gets rewarded," Graeme McDowell said. "I think it's a very fair golf course. I like it a lot."

Or this, from Phil Mickelson, "It's very comfortable for me off some of the tees, getting the ball in play, as well as around the greens. I like it a lot."

Anything to add, Brandt Snedeker? "It's always a special week, especially here at Muirfield. The golf course is fantastic. It's unlike any British I've played in before, where the ball is bouncing everywhere. It's really firm and fast. The course is in fantastic shape. The greens are some of the best I've seen."

Maybe if the wind picks up, or some freakish storm sweeps over the course—as



Tiger Woods of the US smiles during a press conference ahead of the British Open Golf Championship at Muirfield, Scotland, Tuesday July 16, 2013.

AP

it did in 2002, the last time the Open was here—those opinions will take a turn.

But, at the moment, it's nothing but a lovefest.

"Each and every hole is a little bit different," defending champion Ernie Els said. "There's left to rights, right to lefts, and it all happens out there. Every links shot that you can imagine, you're going to play it this week."

Just don't bother asking about what happens at the club the other 51 weeks of the year.

Nick Faldo, who has won two of his Open titles at Muirfield, seemed to sum up the feelings for everyone carrying a club when the question was posed to him about the male-only membership. He threw back his head and let out an audible sigh before delivering an answer that quickly brought an end to any thoughts of a meaningful discussion.

"That's for the club to decide," he said bluntly.

The weather hasn't been an issue at all—warm and sunny through the practice rounds, with nary a hint of rain. The course is more yellow than green, a product of the largely dry conditions, certainly nothing like it was the last time the Open came to Muirfield.

Back in 2002, during the third round, the weather suddenly took a dramatic turn for the worse. The temperature plummeted. The winds howled. The rains pounded those unfortunate enough to be out on the course, a group that included Woods.

His hopes of a Grand Slam were washed away by an 81, which remains his highest score as a professional.

That's a part of the Muirfield history he would prefer to forget.

"That was the worst I've ever played in," Woods said. "No one was prepared for it. There was a slight chance of maybe a shower. Obviously the forecast was very wrong on that. So none

of us were prepared clothing-wise. A lot of guys just had golf shirts and a rain jacket, and that was it. That was all they had. I think that's one of the biggest things. The wind chill was in the 30s. The umbrella became useless, because the wind was blowing so hard, you couldn't control the umbrella. It was just a cold, cold day."

As always, Woods comes into a major championship as the overwhelming favorite, having reclaimed the world's No. 1 ranking and already having won four times this year on the PGA Tour.

But the feeling of invincibility is no longer there, wiped out by the longest major drought of his career. Woods hasn't won one of golf's Big Four since his 14th career title at the 2008 U.S. Open. Since then, he's gone through embarrassing revelations about his personal life, a divorce, a swing change, and a series of nagging injuries—the latest of which is a strained left elbow

that sidelined him for the past month.

Woods insists his elbow is fine, but it's no longer a given—or even necessarily expected by a lot of people—that he'll be hoisting the claret jug as the sun slowly sets Sunday evening.

Eighteen golfers have divvied up the last 20 major titles.

Woods is not among them. He still has a good shot at breaking Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 majors, but it no longer looks like a lock at age 37.

"I feel very good about my game," Woods insisted. "I feel very, very good going into major championships. I've had a pretty good year this year so far—won four times. Even though I haven't won a major championship in five years, I've been there in a bunch of them where I've had chances. I just need to keep putting myself there and eventually I'll get some."

Yep, everything is hunky-dory at this British Open.

Let's see if it stays this way.



MIAMI (AP)—Mike Miller was a luxury that the Miami Heat decided they could no longer afford.

Miller was designated Tuesday as the team's amnesty player, a move that may save the Heat more than \$30 million in luxury tax payments over the next two years and comes only a few days after team president Pat Riley said the two-time defending NBA champions were hoping to keep the core of the roster largely intact for next season.

But with the team's tax bill set to be bigger than ever—depending on what the final payroll numbers are, the Heat could pay as much as \$2.50 per \$1 they are over the salary-cap threshold for this coming season under the league's new and more punitive rules—the team ultimately made the call to part with Miller, a move that he suspected was coming.

"I understand the business side of basketball," Miller told The Associated Press. "It's a combination of being

Heat designate Mike Miller as amnesty player

very, very thankful for the opportunity that I've had, but it hurts that we had a chance to do something very, very special and I'd love to have been a part of it."

Riley said the team tried to trade Miller, then had to make "a very difficult decision" to use the one-time amnesty provision on him. He said the team's managing general partner Micky Arison, CEO Nick Arison and coach Erik Spoelstra all struggled with the decision.

"Mike had an incredible impact on the Miami Heat; helping us to three finals appearances and winning back-to-back World Championships," Riley wrote in a statement released by the team. "This was a very difficult decision for me personally, the Arison family, Erik and the entire Miami Heat organization. Mike was one of the best we have ever had here, and will be sorely missed. We wish Mike,

his wife Jennifer and their family nothing but the best."

Miller would have made \$6.2 million this season, and \$6.6 million next season. He still gets that money, but his salary will not count against Miami's cap, nor will it count against a luxury-tax hit that was in line to exceed \$30 million this coming season alone.

"I love Mike. We all love Mike," Heat guard Dwyane Wade told AP as the news of the team's decision broke. "It's tough to lose one of our brothers. But I think we all understand it's not personal. It's a business decision."

If Miller is not claimed off waivers, he becomes a free agent later this week. It's believed he would like to play for a title contender, and a return to Memphis—where he spent parts of six seasons—would likely appeal to Miller.

"I know I can be very, very productive for a couple years for sure," Miller said. "But at the same time, it would

be very difficult to go into a situation where you're not competing for a title. So I'm going to have to weigh those things, and we'll see how it plays out."

Miller spent three seasons in Miami, helping the Heat win two titles and playing big roles in each playoff run. He started the last four games of this year's NBA Finals, the highlight of that run possibly being how he lost a shoe during play early in the fourth quarter of Game 6 against San Antonio, flipped it over to the bench, came downcourt and swished a 3-pointer anyway to help the Heat rally from 10 points down in the final 12 minutes.

He also came off the bench to make seven 3-pointers in the title-clinching Game 5 win over Oklahoma City in 2012.

"I've had a pretty good career and I've been a part of a lot of special things," said Miller, the NBA's rookie of the year in 2000-01 and sixth man

of the year in 2005-06. "I've won some individual awards and now two rings, so I'm going to have some pretty good memories."

Miller plans to keep playing for at least a couple more years, saying that he feels better now than he has in several seasons. He expressed disappointment that not only will he not get to help the Heat try for a third straight title, he will no longer be playing alongside Udonis Haslem, his former college teammate at Florida.

Reuniting with Haslem was one of the many reasons why Miller signed with Miami.

"I said this when I first got back here: My career started in the state of Florida with unbelievable teammates, one of them being Udonis," Miller said. "And then ending back up in Florida with UD, that was a special thing. We had a chance to win a national championship, came up short, then at the end got back as teammates in the NBA and won two championships together. That's special."

Froome comes within inches of disaster at Tour

TOUR de France G A P , France (AP)—Hurtling too fast for comfort

down a twisty, turning foothill of the Alps, Tour de France leader Chris Froome faced a high-speed choice between risk and reward.

The Briton knew that 10 years previously almost day for day on exactly the same descent, Joseba Beloki shattered his leg, elbow and wrist bones rounding a corner too fast and Lance Armstrong plowed into a field to avoid the prone Spaniard howling in pain.

So Froome wanted to go easy. Trouble is, Alberto Contador didn't. Against his better instincts, Froome chased after his Spanish rival who rode hell for leather on the treacherous downhill with asphalt made gooey and slippery by the July heat.

Just like Armstrong, flirting with disaster nearly cost Froome the Tour. Contador crashed as he rounded a right-hand corner, forcing Froome to swerve around him off the road, onto the grass and to put a foot down to stay upright.

Unlike Contador, who bled his right knee, Froome escaped with just a fright. Still, this drama on Tuesday's Stage 16 proved a point that Froome and his Sky team have made time and again: despite his big lead, Froome won't savor victory until he's on the cobbles of the Champs-Elysees in Paris on Sunday.



Christopher Froome of Britain, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates on the podium of the sixteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 168 kilometers (105 miles) with start in Vaison-la-Romaine and finish in Gap, France, Tuesday July 16, 2013.

"One second you could be going for the finish and about to win a race and the next you're lying in a ditch somewhere, with a broken bone," Froome said.

"I knew it was the descent where Beloki crashed so I was purposefully laying off a little bit and trying to take it easy but at the same time also trying to keep touch with the Saxobank guys who were really pushing the limits."

By that, Froome meant Contador and his Saxo-Tinkoff teammate from the Czech Republic, Roman Kreuziger, who are third and fourth in the overall stand-

ings but more than four minutes off the lead.

Opportunities for them to claw back time are fast running out. The finish line in Paris is now just 668 kilometers (415 miles) and five days away. To their credit, they aren't simply accepting defeat but are harassing Froome all the way. If Froome wins, the way his rivals have repeatedly tested the British rider over the three weeks should give him the extra satisfaction of a victory hard-earned.

Stage 16 wound from Provence past vineyards, lavender fields and villages clinging

to hillsides to the town of Gap, a staging post for what promises to be a grand finale in the Alps for the 100th Tour.

For a long while, it seemed that the 168-kilometer (104-mile) trek to Gap from Vaison-la-Romaine, a charming town with old ruins near the Mont Ventoux where Froome won on Sunday, would be one of those Tour stages that don't amount to much.

Apparently keeping their powder dry for the Alps, Froome and other main protagonists allowed 26 riders — none of them a podium threat — to escape

far ahead. The stage winner, Rui Costa, later emerged from that group, riding away on the day's last climb, a 9.5-kilometer (6-mile) long ascent to Col de Manse, and then zipping down to Gap.

Although the Manse climb is less arduous and less steep than the Ventoux, where Froome blasted past Contador, the Spaniard and Kreuziger used it to test the Briton and his Australian wingman, Richie Porte. Several times, Contador tried accelerating away. Kreuziger did, too. But Porte and then Froome alone wouldn't let them get away.

To cool the asphalt, authorities doused the top of the climb with water. But Porte said the road down from there was sticky and slippery — just as it was in the heat wave of 2003, when Beloki's back wheel slid away from him on a bend, hurling him to the ground. Armstrong went on to win that Tour — only to have that and all six of his other victories in cycling's premier race stripped from him last year for doping.

On Tuesday, touching their brakes caused wheels to slip, Porte said.

"All of us had a bit of a moment coming down there, losing the front wheel, back wheel," he said.

Yet Contador was flying, with Froome in his wake.

Rounding a sharp right-hand corner, "the bike got away from me,"

Contador said.

"It was really difficult. In normal conditions I wouldn't have slipped like that, but it was very difficult terrain," said the 2007 and '09 champion, who was stripped of his '10 title for a failed doping test. "Sometimes you have to go for it, whether it's at the start or the end of a stage."

Froome said Contador "was taking too many risks."

"All teams are starting to get desperate now and they're taking uncalculated risks," he said. "In my opinion it was a bit dangerous from Alberto to ride like that, it's not good."

Worryingly for Froome, there's worse to come. Thursday's Stage 18 not only includes a double ascent to the ski station of Alpe d'Huez, with its 21 hairpin bends, but also a harrowing descent that several riders have voiced concerns about.

Having seen that Froome wasn't completely comfortable chasing after Contador on Tuesday, the risk now is that his rivals could try to unsettle him again on Thursday's downhill from Col de Sarenne.

"It is a very dangerous descent. The road surface is not great," Froome said. "And there aren't any barriers on the corners, so if you go over the corner then you will fall down a long way. It's a dangerous descent and I hope the riders are aware of that, that they don't take risks like they did today."

BOTIN

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they were awarded cash prizes and trophies replicating the fish they caught during last Monday's awards ceremony at Pacific Islands Club's Magellan.

In the yellow fin category, 2 Sisters' 90.60-lb catch clearly topped the 53.25-lb of Grady White. 2 Sisters' captain Manuel Mogar and his crewmembers Arnel and Amelito Pagaraao caught the winning yellow fin tuna last Saturday, while skipper David Kapileo and anglers

Edward Manibusan, Ed Sablan, and Arnold Palacios' second heaviest yellow fin was found in the last day of the tournament.

Both 2 Sisters and Grady White received trophies for their feat and were joined by Here Fishee Fishee. Though captain Tekede Nakasato finished only third in the yellow fin category, he drew the loudest cheers among the three winners in the division, as he was alone aboard his 12-foot boat when he caught the 45.25-lb yellow fin.

Meanwhile, other first place finishers in the Saipan Fishermen's Association-organized

tournament were Team Kajin, The Marianas, My Lady Gora, and Saint Patrick.

Team Kajin of captain Ogura Masami and anglers Juko Ishikawa and Naoshi Ogasawara ruled the total weight category after bringing in two marlins. Masami and company brought the first fish at Smiling Cove Marina last Saturday around 1pm and their catch weighed 129 lbs. Then last Sunday, Team Kajin was also one of the boats to dock early at the marina and this time it had a heaviest catch, weighing 130.30 lbs.

In the bill fish category, My Lady Gora temporarily held the

lead in Day 1 of the tournament before Team Kajin brought in their 129-lb catch, the former showed up with a 133.85-lb marlin. Luka & Ben then produced the heaviest catch of the day and the tournament (221.5 lbs) to take the grand prize and leave the first place trophy in the bill fish category to My Lady Gora of skipper Jesse Aldan and anglers Jason Aldan, Henry Hofschneider, and Bernard Reoligio.

Team Kajin's 130.30 lbs and the 110.8 lbs of Saint James captain Tony Maestro and crew Mario Jumalon rounded out the

Top 3 in the bill fish category.

In the wahoo category, all three winning entries were caught in Day 2 of the competition with The Marianas' 41.35 lbs beating the 28.55 lbs and 19.95 lbs of Carmelita and Ampa Boys, respectively. The Marianas is captained by Jesus Muna with Preston Muna and Isidro Sablan as anglers. CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alex Castro skippered the runner-up Carmelita and was joined by crewmembers Alex Castro Jr., Joe Babauta, and Joe Cepeda, while captain Lawrence Concepcion led Ampa Boys, which has Ev-

elyn Concepcion and Leo Retes and John Esteves as anglers.

In the skipjack category, it was a close fight between Saint Patrick and Close Enough, as the former reeled in a 12.90-lb tuna against the latter's 12.30-lb catch. Danilo Salinas captained Saint Patrick and drew help from angler Annie Legaspi, while Close Enough has Brian Paulino as skipper and anglers Rick and Allan Cruz. Guam's Showtime of captain Paul Lee and crewmembers David Dougherty and Jim Gittleson completed the Top 3 after getting an 11.35-lb skipjack tuna.

AXE

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from the opposite side.

AXE Proa then sued for time and the short lull brought order back to the Rufino Aguon-coached team, as it went for the killer blows in the homestretch with a 15-2 windup. Dan Barcenas started the rally with an and-1 play from the right base-

line and made the bonus shot to move AXE Proa within one. A reverse layup from Jack Lizama after another Ol'Aces miss put AXE Proa back into the driver's seat, 55-54, and Aguon's wards slowly put the game away with Ichitaro Faisao hitting back-to-back baskets and Lizama drilling a jumper. Gino Libuw also scored a string of 4 points to give AXE Proa a double-digit lead, 63-52, entering the final

minute of the game.

An uncontested basket from Trevor Ogunmoro with 55 seconds left on the clock ended the Ol'Aces' drought, but this was not enough to bring the team back into the game, as Proa wisely used the time to keep its distance and take the double-digit winning margin.

Faisao top-scored for AXE Proa with his 14 points, while Lizama and Keoni Chariton

added 13 and 11, respectively.

Peter Camacho had 12 points for the Ol'Aces, but he was held to one field goal in the last three quarters. The Ol'Aces forward sizzled early, firing 9 points in the opening canto to lift his team to an 18-14 advantage. Proa then moved within a hair at the break, 30-31, after earning several points from the foul line. The game remained close in the third period with Proa holding

a shaking 44-41 lead and the Ol'Aces went on to keep their foes within striking distance in the first half of the final canto before fading down in the end.

The Ol'Aces took forced shots in an attempt to end the drought and were a bit rattled by AXE Proa's pressure defense. The Ol'Aces failed to produce the much-needed baskets as they played without one of their offensive options—Jesus Iguel,

who averaged 18 points in their first two games.

AXE Proa 65 — Faisao 14, Lizama 13, Chariton 11, Barcenas 8, Alegre 6, Libuw 4, Dela Rosa 4, Johnson 3, Babauta 2.

Ol'Aces 54 — Camacho 12, Ogunmoro 10, Basa 8, Litulmar 8, Rengul 8, Norita 6, Olaitiman 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-18, 30-31, 44-41, 65-54.

FONG'S

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struggled offensively. Toribio's successive baskets gave Fong's Flip Top a 10-8 lead after the first period. Kevin De Leon and Lester Lapuz drilled the two other field goals for Fong's Flip

Top in the opening canto, while Nokki Saralu scored 6 points off triples for Ballaholics, which drew the other field goal from Treat Kaipat.

Both teams continued to bleed for points in the second canto with Fong's Flip Top notching only 8 makers against the 9 of Ballaholics for an unstable hold to the

driver's seat at the break, 19-18. Esteves and Namelo had 4 points apiece for Fong's Flip Top in the second period, five players made it to the board for Ballaholics.

Finally, in the third quarter both squads scored in twin digits with Ballaholics earning 14 points to take a precarious 31-30 lead against Fong's Flip Top, which

collected a dozen. Joe Imperial somehow managed to light up Ballaholics' offense, firing 8 of his 14 markers in the fourth canto, while Fleming had 6 to keep Fong's Flip Top in the game.

Imperial added 4 more points in the final canto, but only him and Derrick Rangamar made field goals for Ballaholics in the

payoff period, while the trio of Esteves, Namelo, and Fleming joined forces and got some help from two other teammates to outscore their foes, 15-11, and steal the win.

Meanwhile, the second game between Kamikaze and San Antonio Slashers was rained-out in the first half.

Fong's Flip Top 45 — Esteves 12, Namelo 8, Toribio 8, Fleming 8, Feria 3, Ngeskebei 2, De Leon 2.

Ballaholics 42 — Imperial 14, Rangamar 8, N. Saralu 8, Br. Sablan 4, Kaipat 4, J. Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-8, 18-17, 30-21, 45-42.

29th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament Winners

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The captain, crewmembers, and supporters of *Luka & Ben* celebrate on stage after receiving the grand prize in the 29th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament during the awards ceremony last Monday at Pacific Islands Club's Magellan.



Team Kaijin captain Masami Ogura, third left, shows their trophy after winning the total weight category.



My Lady Gora anglers pose with their first place trophy in the bill fish category.



I Familia anglers receive a special prize from tournament sponsor Yamaha, which is represented by Joeten's Dung Tenorio, left.



Boitin Saba's James Roberto, third left, holds the first place trophy for mahi category and is joined by captain Paul Roberto, right, and angler Sen. Ralph Torres, fourth from left.



The Marianas crewmembers receive the first place prizes in the wahoo category.



Far left, Carmelita crewmembers pose with their runner-up trophy in the wahoo category.



Left, Ampa Boys anglers pose for a photo after getting the third place prize in the wahoo category.

Right, tournament officials applaud Takede Nakasato of *Here Fishie Fishee* for placing third in the yellow fin tuna category.



Far right, Grady White captain David Kapileo, right, and his crewmembers pose for a photo after winning the second place in the yellow fin tuna category.





Rivera enters early,
helps AL win
All-Star game

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Warm, fuzzy
feelings as
Open returns
to Muirfield

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2013

Botin Saba, 2 Sisters smoke foes



Spectators snap photos of the 39.05-lb mahi Botin Saba caught last Saturday during the 29th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

ROSELYN B. MONROY

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
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REPORTER

Botin Saba and 2 Sisters were the runaway winners in the mahi and yellow fin categories of the 29th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

Botin Saba's 39.05-lb mahi nearly tripled the weight of the catch of runner-up Mistress (14.75 lbs). The winning mahi was caught last Saturday during Day 1 of the weekend tournament and about an hour before the 6pm cutoff time. Captain Paul Roberto and crewmembers James Roberto and Sen. Ralph Torres' catch



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REPORTER

AXE Proa is still unscathed in the Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League 2013/Docomo Pacific Cup, following a 65-54 victory over the Ol'Aces last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was the fourth in as many games for AXE Proa, which strengthened its hold of the top spot in the nine-team field, taking a two-game lead over three other squads that are tied for second place.

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ROSELYN B. MONROY
AXE Proa's Gino Libuw pulls up for a shot against the Ol'Aces' Trevor Oguromo during the fourth quarter of their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROY
AXE Proa's Gino Libuw pulls up for a shot against the Ol'Aces' Trevor Oguromo during the fourth quarter of their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fong's Flip Top nips Ballaholics

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
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REPORTER



Fong's Flip Top prevailed in a low-scoring game against Ballaholics, 45-42, in the 2013 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The victory was only the first in two games for Fong's Flip Top, which dropped its debut after bowing to Radio Comm early this month, 75-78. Ballaholics, which came from a sorry 63-64 defeat to Maplas, fell to 0-2 record after losing another close game.

Ballaholics failed to barge into the win column as it was limited to two free throws in the closing minutes of the lone match completed last Monday. Fong's Flip Top, on the other hand, drew timely baskets from Chris Esteves, Toby Fleming, and Wenz Namelo to eke out the 3-point win. The trio scored the last three field goals for Fong's Flip Top.

Esteves went on to top-score for Fong's Flip Top with his 12 points,



ROSELYN B. MONROY
Emerson Feria, seen here going for a layup in a recent league at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court, plays for Fong's Flip Top, which defeated Ballaholics in the DL Corp. caging last Monday night, 45-42.

while Namelo, Fleming, and Dan Toribio chipped in 8 apiece.

Toribio nailed six straight points in the first period, but the rest of his teammates and so did Ballaholics

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